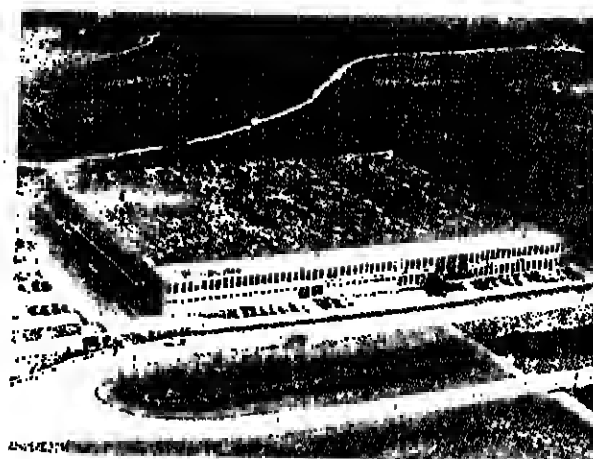


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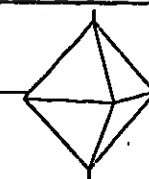


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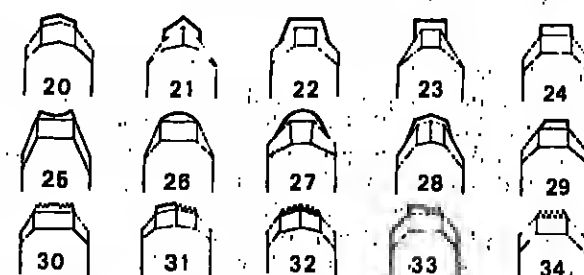
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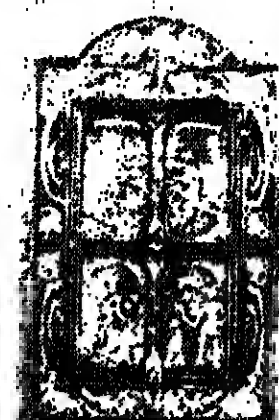


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North-South policy under scrutiny

DIE ZEIT

World trade experts at the Bonn Economic Affairs ministry were upset by a local newspaper headline reading: "Genscher calls for new look North-South policy."

Civil servants usually take headlines in their stride, but this is a particularly tricky subject and the newspaper in question is usually well-informed on Foreign Minister Genscher's views.

The prospect of a "new look" after 30 months of bickering between the Third World and the industrialised West disturbed the Economic Affairs ministry. The news could hardly have come at a more inconvenient moment.

Experts at the Foreign, Economic Affairs, Finance and Economic Co-operation ministries were feverishly debating the attitude to be taken by Bonn's delegation at the mid-November Geneva round of raw materials talks with the developing countries.

Third World delegates will doubtless have been cheered to learn that Herr Genscher is advocating a new approach. As far as the Geneva talks are concerned, he is in charge of policies pursued by one of the world's richest industrialised countries.

If Bonn has changed its mind, a breakthrough would seem a distinct possibility at the North-South talks. The Third World would have been well advised to engineer the breakdown of the first round of raw materials talks a year ago.

So the newspaper headline sent civil servants scurrying to the source material: a speech by Herr Genscher to the United Nations Association.

In his address the Foreign Minister complained that the industrialised countries had merely responded to demands by the Third World. They had only just come round to the idea of framing counter-demands of their own.

This alone was not too alarming, which could not be said for a further comment.

"Counter-demands levelled at the developing countries can only be included in the talks with any prospect of success if we do all we can, rather than resort to a strategy of responding to pressure with gradual concessions."

At the Economic Affairs ministry this comment is felt to be extraordinarily non-committal. It is certainly hard to reconcile with the headline "Genscher calls for new look North-South policy."

But the belief that it is a mere bro-

cade may turn out to be wishful thinking.

Bonn has agreed, for instance, to write off debts owed by the poorest developing countries, although not automatically and only after individual scrutiny.

In practice this is only a formality, the aim being to ensure that Idi Amin and Emperor Bokassa do not have their debts cancelled automatically, encouraging them to be even more wasteful.

This move by Bonn is relatively inexpensive, costing the Exchequer about DM50m a year, but inordinate generosity at the Geneva commodity talks could prove so costly as to constitute negligence.

The Third World's basic demand last year was for an integrated commodities programme of guaranteed prices for about 18 products, with sales and price fluctuations being offset by buffer stocks.

If the market price of a commodity falls below a specified level, the appropriate international authority will be authorised to lay in buffer stocks to stabilise prices.

If prices rise above a certain level, they can sell stocks to restore price stability. In both cases the finances will be handled by a Common Fund that in conference parlance has come to be known as the "first window."

The second window will consist of other measures designed to help countries that lack either competitive commodities or raw materials of any kind.

The Common Fund is to be used to finance several things: commodity development, diversification of single-crop economies, higher productivity, marketing, research and development.

The crux of both plans is that the Third World expects all countries, but of course primarily the industrialised states, to contribute directly towards the fund.

It will administer cash as it sees fit, and to make matters worse, voting will be as at the UN General Assembly, with the Third World doing the saying and the West the paying.

There is an obvious risk of massive intervention and regimentation in com-



President Walter Scheel and King Hussein of Jordan meet the press in Bonn during King Hussein's official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Hussein has doubts over Camp David

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Camp David accords were not convincing enough for King Hussein of Jordan to run the risk of joining the peace talks.

He complained that Israel's undertaking on autonomy for the West Bank was not a firm promise of self-determination for people there after a five-year period.

Besides, Israeli settlement of the West Bank has not been halted, and King Hussein would have needed both commitments to justify taking part in the peace bid.

To this extent US diplomatic efforts in the Middle East have been a failure. Yet King Hussein gives the impression of wanting to retain the option of taking part at some future stage. He clearly sees that only Mr Begin stands to gain, especially in his ties with President Sadat, from other Arab countries rejecting the Camp David accords out of hand.

By doing so they are relieving Israel of the need to demonstrate its willingness to negotiate on other outstanding aspects of the Middle East conflict, or so King Hussein seems to have argued at Jeddah.

To bolster this line of argument, the United States seems to be trying to induce Egypt and Israel to both sign a peace treaty and exchange documents indicating that more is at issue than a separate peace pact.

These documents would demonstrate that both sides are deliberately commit-

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Socialist meeting is triumph for Brandt

Frankfurter Rundschau

For a moment the applause in the ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, is so thunderous that the translation headphones go haywire.

Temporarily unable to adjust to the decibels, they let out a brusque wail in response to the nomination of Willy Brandt for re-election as chairman of the Socialist International.

Delegates rise from their seats to give a standing ovation to the German Social Democrat leader and the name of peace has served so well.

It is a vote by acclamation. Not even a show of hands is necessary. He is re-elected for another two-year term, and it comes as a sobering surprise to hear him asked whether, if elected, he will agree to serve.

Willy Brandt is unquestionably the linchpin of the Socialist International. "We can count ourselves lucky we still have him," says Irene Potry of Belgium.

He is a man who has done more towards justice than any other in our era, says a spokesman for the host, Canada's New Democratic Party.

At moments like this the SPD leader is clearly seen to be the undisputed leader of the world's Social Democratic and Socialist parties.

Much has changed since he took over the chairmanship at Geneva in November 1976. Then Herr Brandt said his aim was to lead the Socialist International out of its European ghetto.

Its claim to represent worldwide opinion was evident at Vancouver, where delegates from Latin America, Africa and Asia lent greater weight to the Third World's voice.

Democratic socialism is staking its claim as an alternative to consolidation of the blocs, says Horst Ehnke of the German delegation.

Growing disillusionment with both capitalism and Moscow-style communism is particularly widespread in the developing countries, so there is good reason for taking stock and considering new options.

Interest in the Socialist International has never been as brisk as at Vancouver on the Pacific coast. The 41 full members were outnumbered by guest delegations and observers.

Swapo and Polisario did not take part in debate, but their very presence influenced the agenda.

Peace and development was the motto of the 14th Socialist International congress. Countries directly concerned with issues of the day were represented in the conference hall, if not on the rostrum, and their presence honed delegates' consciences.

In spreading its net worldwide the Socialist International is running risks. Emergence from the European ghetto makes demands on the Europeans. How, for instance, is one to define democratic socialism?

Spanish and Portuguese views by no means coincide with those of the Swedes and Germans, let alone Africans, Asians and Latin Americans.

Agreement on a common catechism is most unlikely, although the attempt should not be abandoned. Expansion has made it necessary to steer clear of details on which views may differ.

The emphasis in Vancouver was on tenets that did not overtax what member-parties might consider fundamentals. Ends were stressed, leaving means to fend for themselves.

The Socialist International was neither a world party nor a closed society, Willy Brandt said. Members pursued similar targets but were receptive to new ideas.

He advocated a dialogue with all peace-loving groups as a means of overcoming fears many members might have of making contact with party-political foes.

There was no need to go into detail, he said, because the conference had more than enough to discuss: the backlog of East-West problems, including disarmament, the North-South divide with special reference to the Third World, and the many aspects of human rights.

All were in urgent need of solution, and even if a solution were not possible because members lacked the power to impose it, a consensus was still desirable.

Is democratic socialism in its new, expanded guise, still capable of reaching a consensus? Or are African and European views, for instance, worlds apart?

Conclusions reached were not so precise that no interpretation was possible. Circumstances and conditions in the various countries differ too widely for common ground to be found without difficulty.

They do so even within the Third World. In Africa, for instance, democratic socialists have no opinion but to back liberation movements, whereas their counterparts in most parts of Latin America are banking on radical democratic evolution.

So while Latin American socialists are opposed to the military, Africans support armed uprising. It is all a matter of historical development.

Latin America was seen in Vancouver as a hopeful prospect, even though, as Spain's Felipe Gonzalez said, socialism has a poor reputation there. In fact it is gaining ground, as for instance in the Dominican Republic.

In four or five years the trend will be

even more apparent, socialists forecast. They are much more confident about prospects in Brazil.

The largest Social Democratic party outside Europe was taking shape there, Herr Brandt said.

Africa however remains a major problem and a challenge. The Socialist International is keen to gain a foothold there from which to challenge the Communists.

A two-fold approach was adopted in pursuit of this aim. It consists of abandoning indulgence towards neo-colonialist oppressors and ending suspicion of contacts with progressive forces.

Bonn's Hans-Jürgen Witschnewski testified to the first leg of the approach by roundly condemning South Africa on Namibia.

He was no less vocal on the second, saying, for instance, that organisations such as Swapo needed protection from discrimination. To brand them as Communists was the result of what he called Western ignorance.

Willy Brandt had a bad cold but gave the impression of being very wide awake. There was little doubt that he made his mark on the conference, not only as an individual but also in debate.

He set goals that, although they might not regiment the conference, did establish priorities in accordance with the main topic: peace and development.

Two years ago in Geneva Herr Brandt sounded a get-up-and-go note. In Vancouver he was more reticent, yet he made no attempt to dismiss the difficulties the Socialist International had encountered.

Disarmament, he said, was the prerequisite of further progress. Without détente, to which there was no alternative, there could be no bridging the North-South gap. A balance had to be struck in East-West ties.

Vancouver was a far cry from Geneva here. Two years ago the Socialist International set great store by Mr Carter. Now it is more sceptical, as Willy Brandt readily admits.

Politics, he said, called for continuity, on human rights or any other issue. The conference was in no doubt that the pinpoints were aimed at a US President known to vacillate.

There were claims that Vancouver had seen a swing to the left. It is hard to say whether this is true. From the SPD's viewpoint, the Socialist International was already a left-wing organisation.

In other words, the German Social Democratic party was on the right wing of the Socialist International. It still is, and that is how matters will no doubt remain as long as Willy Brandt is at the helm.

Tension may increase when he retires, possibly in two years' time. Felipe Gonzalez of Spain's PSOE is currently fancied to succeed the SPD leader.

Hans-Joachim Noack (Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 November 1978)

Hussein's peace doubts

Continued from page 1

ting themselves to further moves in the Middle East.

So Washington is keen to emphasise the gradual progress towards understanding between Egypt and Israel. America has also called on its allies to help.

Bonn, for instance, was asked to give King Hussein a most cordial reception, put in a plug for US policy in the Mid-

dle East, and show interest in bilateral ties between Bonn and Amman.

This may partly explain why Bonn was so demonstratively cordial towards King Hussein.

Chancellor Schmidt said the Camp David accords were not, as he saw it, sufficient, but that he was confident developments would gather their own momentum. (Der Tagesspiegel, 8 November 1978)

Bonn hits at nuclear help allegations

DIE WELT

Bonn has strongly denied repeated allegations of military and nuclear cooperation with South Africa which, according to a paper issued by the Press Office and the Foreign Ministry, are aimed at undermining Bonn's international credibility.

The paper was published in time for a congress against nuclear cooperation with South Africa organised in Bonn by the local Anti-Apartheid Movement and the African National Congress.

ANC sponsorship was interesting since Hans-Jürgen Witschnewski, Minister of State for the Chancellor's Office, had announced at the Vancouver congress of the Socialist International that the Social Democrats intended to support the African National Congress.

But the Bonn paper accuses both the ANC and the Anti-Apartheid Movement of deliberately slandering the federal government in order to hit at the West as a whole and to consolidate the Soviet position in Africa.

Campaigns by these groups are said to be based in most cases on misleading information peddled by Eastern Europe in general and East Berlin in particular.

The brochure says "there is neither military nor nuclear cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of South Africa."

It deals in detail with about 30 allegations, refuting them point by point and saying that the rumour-mongers are unable to supply proof.

They misinterpret and distort the facts and are strong only on speculation and fallacy, the paper says.

"They are not friends of Africa but forces engaged in an attempt to export the East-West conflict to Africa and to pursue power politics of their own there."

Bonn would be happy if African countries were to study the facts themselves and appreciate that the allegations levelled at West Germany are untenable, the paper concludes.

Berni Conrad (Die Welt, 9 November 1978)

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HOME AFFAIRS

Opposition broadcasts its media policy discontent

Christian Democratic politicians have for many years been complaining of left-wing tendencies on many radio and television stations and party politicians gave expression to pent-up discontent at a special congress on media policies recently.

The term "media policies" electrifies politicians of all parties. The media causing so much controversy among politicians are those which broadcast news and opinions, that is, mainly radio, television and newspapers. Media policies are in the widest sense of the word press policies but politicians are reluctant to put it as clearly.

Politicians are dependent on the media for getting their ideas across to the public. Television in particular is an excellent means of presenting one's point of view. It is no accident that in dictatorships the press is brought into line.

The existence of a free press is one of the most important proofs of democracy and so politicians cannot simply order it into line. But of course they always try, with degrees of success. Sometimes journalists help them in their attempts, sometimes they refuse to cooperate; this is what the controversy is all about.

The fact that the discussion centres on television and radio is not only due to the attractiveness of these media, but also to their forms of organisation. In the Federal Republic television and radio have a legal basis and status unusual in the world, a system which stems from past experiences and good intentions.

Goebbels's state radio was a frightening experience for many Democrats. No-one had much confidence in a private radio system in the ruined Germany of the early post-war years — least of all the Allies.

The result was that media laws were passed binding the institutions to the constitution and obliging them to bear

the common good in mind. All "socially relevant forces" were to take part in this public corporation, so that it seemed right to give it a monopoly.

In a state such as the Federal Republic of Germany, which has now come of age and is one of the most stable democracies on earth, these self-imposed fetters may seem irritating and superfluous. Yet they do not have to be in principle, at least not as long as the social forces whose function is to control the system and keep it working smoothly live up to their responsibilities.

However, there are doubts about this, and if they are justified the public corporation system must put up with questioning.

The parties have done a lot to increase the doubts. They are partly responsible for the system of appointment based on party affiliation in the radio and TV stations, and for the political polarisation; they were unable to distinguish between an understandable striving for power and a system of controls and balances. Perhaps this is too much to expect of a party.

The basic mistake of the public corporation system was the assumption that the other socially relevant forces on the supervisory boards would prevent the parties from seeking power in the wrong places. Parties cannot be impartial.

The second mistake was the attempt to distinguish between the parties and the main social forces. Church and trade union leaders have, with few honourable exceptions, always shown their party political sympathies, so that in the end the television and radio advisory boards reflected the struggle between government and opposition.

It is hardly surprising that political power struggles rage on here. As important appointments are made in these bodies, the struggle is continued in the

editorial, the struggle is continued in the editorial offices. It may be that the SPD is marginally ahead of the CDU here because it realised the important opinion-forming function of the electronic media sooner. But whenever it is at all possible, the CDU makes up ground, using exactly the same methods as the SPD.

The controversy about television and radio stems from the system. It therefore must be acceptable to think of ways of loosening up the system. Private television and private radio could mean more competition and could shake up entrenched structures.

Hans Jörg Sottorf

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 November 1978)

Policy scrutiny

Continued from page 1

or interested in the scheme. Morocco, for instance, with a virtual monopoly in phosphates, has no interest whatever in keeping prices stable.

The Moroccans have good reason to suppose that market prices for their product will go in one direction only: up. There is as yet no substitute for phosphates.

So why should Morocco help to alleviate the hardship of others? Other commodity producers have been having the same thoughts.

But if agreements are reached only for commodities usually in the price doldrums, the Common Funds would no longer function. Unless there is a mixture of rising and falling prices the fund will never have enough cash to build up buffer stocks.

It would depend on bunkrolling by the consumer countries, and the cash would more likely than not soon become excessive.

If the industrialised countries agree to this proposition, the developing world will have accomplished more than its wildest dreams. But Herr Müller-Thums of the Economic Affairs ministry hopes they will realise this is impossible.

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 14 November 1978)

Tax package confusion still reigns

The debacle over the mediation between the Bundestag and Bundesrat on the new tax package is incomprehensible to the taxpayer.

No-one knows what is going to happen over taxes now. Even the reductions in rates welcomed by all parties and planned for 1 January 1979 seem to be in doubt.

The CDU/CSU wanted this part of the tax package separate from the rest for three reasons. The coalition is still against this proposal and insists that VAT should be increased from 1 July next year to prevent the entire government budget bursting its seams with new indebtedness.

Unless the three main parties change their ideas, the tax package meant to increase real growth by one per cent next year, will shrink to the comparatively low volume of two (1979) to 3.7 (1980) billion Deutschmarks. It includes more children's allowance, more generous pregnancy leave and more flexibility for handicapped pensioners.

This means, Helmut Schmidt's position in terms of the guarantees given at the Bonn economic summit in July is hardly better than that of President Car-

ter, whose energy programme was considerably diluted by Congress.

The CDU/CSU can, with good reason, point out that its majority in the Bundestag has come about not by any dark forces, but thanks to the will of the electorate, and that the Basic Law gives the Bundesrat considerable rights of co-de-

termination in economic and financial policies.

Reaching agreement will not be easy as positions on both sides are entrenched. The Opposition insists on re-introducing the lay allowances for children abolished with its support in 1974. The government has proposed an extension of the law on household help as a child-minding contribution, where the costs would have to be proved. The Opposition

regard this as too little and the coalition is not prepared to improve its offer.

It seems somewhat easier to agree on the second main issue — the trade tax. Here the coalition may have created enough scope for a compromise by its proposal for compensating the local councils for loss of income from the levy.

A leading CDU expert has reckoned that the local councils would lose DM1.7 billion by the abolition of the payroll tax but would gain DM5.07 billion by the increase of their share of wage and income tax and the reduction of the trade tax redistribution. This could be the starting point for further trade tax reductions, especially now that Bonn and Düsseldorf have agreed on compensation.

For the time being this is speculation. At present coalition and Opposition are eagerly passing the buck over responsibility for the breakdown of the first round of compromise talks.

Reinhard Uhlmann

(Handelsblatt, 11 November 1978)

Army reform: Apel lists advantages

DIE WELT

Bonn Minister of Defence Hans Apel has justified the recent changes in army organisation by listing a number of advantages.

He holds that by increasing the number of field brigades to 36 the Federal Republic is meeting its obligations within Nato and strengthening conventional defence; in a crisis the government could quickly call up large numbers into the territorial army without full mobilisation and is thus more capable of deterring action; better use is made of trained reservists; finally, the size of the army in peacetime remains the same, so that the Bundeswehr does not dominate Nato.

Under Reform Four the following will happen:

- The 36 army brigades will be divided into four fighting battalions instead of three. One will have a skeleton staff during peacetime, but in a crisis will be composed of active soldiers and armed units.

- Battalions will consist of four companies in peace and three companies in war. The fourth company from each battalion will then join the fourth battalion.

- The fighting companies will have 13 tanks instead of 17, or 11 combat vehicles. This means the company commander has a better overview and the company is easier to lead. Administrative tasks not necessary for the immediate leadership of the unit will be transferred with personnel to the battalion.

- In the territorial army the six home protection commands will if necessary be used to support Nato units in front line defence.

- The territorial army will have six home guard regiments organised along brigade lines with heavy weapons (in peace with skeleton staffs), 45 home guard battalions divided into 15 fully motorised regiments, 150 fully motorised home guard companies for the protection of property, plus 300 guard and security groups not provided for in the reform. The home guard regiments will be only partially mobile and are mainly seen as infantry protecting property.

- The three new brigades will treat 1,500 highly-paid posts, and the increase in battalions and companies will create 1,200.

Herr Apel believes the extra money, needed annually for this and the increase in military ranges from 4,000 to 5,900 can be found in the defence budget. Sixty per cent of the one-off cost of about DM300 million will be spent on the territorial army. The remaining 40 per cent will go on the creation of the three new brigades and reorganisation.

The CDU/CSU says Apel's ideas are in part a useful basis for the army of the future, but there is no overall plan for using reservist potential sensibly. The increase in the number of practice ranges is also too small, the Opposition says.

Rüdiger Moritz

(Die Welt, 8 November 1978)

HISTORY

Kristallnacht: Germany's desire to remember

Joachim Fast, a publisher of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and author of a study of Hitler, writes about the significance for Germans of the anniversary of November 1938.

Rarely has there been such a widespread and spontaneous need to remember the past as in these days which mark the 40th anniversary of the November 1938 pogroms.

Documentary exhibitions and hours of remembrance underline the public's consciousness of the events in Germany the night when synagogues were set on fire and Jewish shops smashed and looted.

It is not easy for a nation to live with such incriminating memories. But perhaps the present need to remember is a sign of the realisation that it is far less easy to repress one's own history in the long run.

Those who lived through the Hitler regime were at best able to understand what had happened. Now that history as a school subject has been abolished in certain "progressive" Länder, many young people are not content with what they have learnt about this period of their past.

Free of their parents' complexes about complicity, these young people demand that the rope should be mentioned in the house of the hangman. Though many generational resentments may be involved here, nothing is more understandable than this need to understand and track down the causes of one of the greatest misfortunes in their history.

Of course it is easy to draw false conclusions. Often when we look back, the incidental assumes an importance it never really had. Those who look through German history for evidence of anti-Semitism will find plenty of it. But this does not mean that the course of German history was bound to lead to Auschwitz.

Those who mention Stoeckel, Ahlwardt or Boeckel should not forget the many who opposed anti-Semitism. The raucous anti-Semitism of the late 19th century was nothing compared to the strength of the Social Democratic Party, whose members were free of anti-Semitic resentments.

It is an error, looking back after the catastrophe of the Third Reich, to believe that anti-Semitism in Wilhelmian Germany was stronger than elsewhere in Europe. Anti-Semitism was an expression of defence against the modern world, against industrialisation, urbanisation and rootlessness, of which the Jews appeared to be the advance guard and the representatives.

At the beginning of the 20th century this mood of panic died down, and so too did anti-Semitism. Hitler was the first after this period to succeed in imposing anti-Semitic conspiracy theories on the emotionally-charged consciousness of the immediate post-war years — but even here his success was only partial and there were important regional variations.

Pandemonium, the pogrom of 9 November 1938 is less a proof of a virulent anti-Semitic mood as of the failure of Hitler's anti-Semitic demagoguery. In the historical context, the pogrom was an attempt to kindle the nation's aggressive potential, which has receded in the preceding years of peace. As Hitler cynically put it in a speech two days later, it was threatening to die out altogether.

The night in which the commandos were sent out, the *Gustapo* reports show, did not awake the fever of aggression Hitler wanted. The most prominent reaction was indifference, mingled with compassion, fear and perhaps shame.

The excesses offended the Germans' sense of order. Memories of street violence and of people taking the law into their own hands were aroused. Hitler had won much of his support by promising to stamp these things out. Now he was doing these things himself.

This indifference more than anything else was the cause of the terrible fate of the Jews in Europe. Apart from the murderers themselves, it was precisely this moral indifference with which the entire world regarded the extermination of the Jews soon afterwards.

The ships carrying Jewish refugees which had to wander the seas because no country would let them embark, and the Allies' refusal, despite all the cries for help, to bombard the death camps

A night of terror and then...

mass were strewn with broken glass. The shop windows of the department stores Wertheim and Tietz at the Alexanderplatz, in the Leipziger Strasse, the tailors' shops at the Hausvogelplatz and the Dönhofsplatz and of Kempinski and Aschinger were smashed.

Forty of Berlin's 50 Jewish synagogues were set on fire. In the Fasanenstrasse the huge Jewish synagogue with its three domes burnt all day long. The fire brigade did not lift a finger.

The SA moved on from violence against property to violence against people. Anyone the SA recognised as a Jew was "baited" and beaten. On the Kurfürstendamm, the Tauentzienstrasse and the Stiglitzer Schloss-



Remembrance service

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (left) with Dr. Nahum Goldman, former president of the World Jewish Congress, in the Great Synagogue in Cologne for a remembrance service on the fortieth anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. Chancellor Schmidt said in his address that the great majority of Germans had learnt the lessons of their past. (Photo dpa)

and marshalling yards in the East are two of the most incomprehensible examples of this indifference.

This certainly does not lessen the guilt of those who took part in genocide. Nor does it lessen the responsibility of us all. It merely goes to show that such events are brought about by a certain number of people, but that many are affected by them.

A day such as this should also be the occasion to remember that Hitler did not just want to exterminate the Jews but all so-called inferior races. There have been far too few spokesmen for the millions of Poles and Russians killed by the Nazis.

Today, as in the past, one comes across symptoms of anti-Semitism in Germany and elsewhere. It manifests itself in different ways but the old conspiracy theories and defensive mechanisms are still there. The danger of a view of history from the end, from the catastrophe, is not least that it makes people into fatalists.

This fatalism, which may also appear to provide succour against other phenomena, could help to make anti-Semitism, which is still marginal in our day, the power of a cause, from which later generations will pass their verdict on our own.

Joachim Fast
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 October 1978)

A rabbi who had almost bled to death was brought to the Hedwig Hospital by passers-by who had found him in the street, shot by men in uniform. The police did nothing to prevent either the smashing of shops or the murders. They had received instructions to remain passive.

The reaction of the vast majority of people in Berlin was shock and fear. There was no anti-Semitic mood in the city.

Only a very few Berlin people looted shops. Yet the oppressive feeling of fear soon passed, as Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish Community, critically observes. "Hardly anyone thought that this kind of experience should have consequences for their own behaviour in the form of passive resistance to the Nazi regime and towards anyone concluded from the things

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Poll shows rejection of 'Führer'

DIE WELT

A poll by the Emnid opinion research institute shows that only seven per cent of German citizens would vote for "a man like Adolf Hitler" if, as in 1933, they had the chance.

Ninety per cent of those asked said categorically that they would not. Two per cent did not want to answer questions on the topic.

The pollsters conclude that there is no evidence of a "Hitler Wave". This report says proves how much "certain subjects are created by the media and this certainly applies to Hitler and National Socialism."

Of those aged 50 and above, 12 per cent want a new Führer. The figure for the 20-49 years age group is 5 per cent. Only one per cent of "intellectuals" said they would vote for a Führer.

Eight per cent of CDU voters, seven per cent of SPD voters, and four per cent of FDP voters said they would vote for a Führer.

The Emnid institute took the occasion of the Filbinger case as an opportunity to ask people if they thought the nation should still be concerned with the past of German politicians. The results:

"Sixty per cent think it is important to look into the Nazi past of leading politicians, and 35 per cent are of the opposite opinion."

As for Filbinger's actions as a party court martial judge during the war, 49 per cent believe this was understandable in the situation, whereas 53 per cent disagree.

Fifty-nine per cent believe that people who committed crimes during the Nazi regime should not hold leading positions in the country, whereas 35 per cent believe that 33 years after the end of the war these people can with a clear conscience be allowed to rejoin the official civil service.

ASSETS

New study sheds light on who owns how much of what

A new study by researchers at Berlin's Technical University sheds some light on the distribution of assets in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Up to now those wanting to know who owns Germany's business, or whether real estate holdings are concentrated in a few hands, or how large a slice of private assets is in the hands of the employed had to resort to a handful of surveys, of necessity based on inadequate and obsolete data.

"That it should be the president of the Savers' Association of all people who advocates complete abolishment of all savings subsidies is for me one of several curious aspects of the present public debate," said a perplexed Chancellor Helmut Schmidt some years ago.

It was Ludwig Poullain, then chief executive of Westdeutsche Landesbank and president of the Savers' Association, who, to the Chancellor's surprise, suggested at the end of 1975 that Bonn abolish its extremely costly savings subsidies to eliminate some of its budget deficit.

But more astonishing than this suggestion is that in the past ten years, the state has spent about 100 billion Deutschmarks promoting savings and no-one in Bonn can say whether this has had any effect whatsoever on the concentration of Germany's assets in the hands of a relatively small number of people.

The same politicians who smugly point out that savings this year will again be rewarded with about DM10 billion from state coffers have always been extremely thrifty when it comes to allocating funds to the Federal Statistical Office for a survey of the distribution of assets in this country.

The new study within a research programme at Berlin's Technical University is by Horst-Mierheim and Lutz Wicke, known for their previous works on the distribution of assets. They have surveyed not only the distribution of private assets of persons and households, but also those of social groups.

The fact that private capital is still concentrated in relatively few hands says nothing about its distribution among groups.

A closer look at this aspect shows that there are major differences between groups and their share of overall assets.

In the distribution of material wealth, families whose heads are manual workers, white-collar workers and civil servants, as well as those not gainfully employed (primarily pensioners and housewives), are at a disadvantage.

The self-employed and the farmers, the latter having always held that they are the step-children of the affluent society, have received a slice of the cake out of proportion to their ratio in the overall population. The self-employed own about five times as much as they would if assets were distributed on a per capita basis (only theoretically possible). Farmers have three times as much.

Even though the average blue- and white-collar worker's family has today put aside some savings, the absolute volume of assets shows the extent of the gap between farmers and the self-employed on the one hand and the employed (blue- and white-collar) on the other.

DIE ZEIT

Farmers obviously owe their wealth primarily to their land. But their average ownership of productive capital, or savings is also clearly above that of the employed and pensioners. Where securities are concerned farmers rank at the bottom of the list.

Their traditional mistrust of assets they cannot touch still governs their saving habits.

These averages, however, cover up the great differences even within individual social groups.

Thus, for instance, 21 per cent of all blue-collar worker households possess less than 5,000 Deutschmarks in asset, while more than 18 per cent have assets of between DM100,000 and DM500,000.

Only 0.8 per cent of blue-collar households have assets over half-a-million Deutschmarks, while 17.5 per cent of the self-employed and 14.5 per cent of farmers fall in that category.

In fact, the top section of the asset pyramid is teeming with farmers; close to 66 per cent of families in the food production business have assets of between DM100,000 and DM500,000. No other group comes near this figure. Even among the self-employed only 48 per cent qualify, and only 19 per cent of the employed.

On the other hand, the families of employees predominate at the foot of the pyramid. A surprising aspect is that among the households possessing no, or very small assets blue-collar workers are not over-represented. The same applies to white-collar workers and civil servants.

But 60 per cent of all blue-collar workers' families have less than DM35,000 in assets.

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happening round about him that the clearly criminal government had lost all right to expect loyalty from its citizens.

After the pogrom on 9 November a coordination discussion under Goerdiger's chairmanship was held between Ministers and representatives of the Reichsbank. It was decided to completely ruin and rob the Jews. They were required to pay the state one-and-a-quarter billion Reichsmarks.

The 170 emergency laws and directives limiting Jewish business activities to a minimum were followed by a complete *Berufsverbot* (ban on exercising any profession). Jewish property was "Aryanised", taken away with almost no compensation.

At the same time Jewish citizens were barred from all cultural events, from schools and universities. Social payments to them were cut further. They were banned from the centre of Berlin and from 1 September 1941 they had to wear the yellow Star of David. On 20 January 1942, at the so-called

Among the self-employed only 16 per cent and among farmers less than eight per cent fall in this category.

Are the farmers engaged in a desperate battle against "interest serfdom"?

The Mierheim-Wicke survey refutes the myth that farmers are particularly burdened by debt. Only 0.6 per cent of them have more in credits than in assets (the figure is 2.6 per cent for the self-employed and about six per cent for all other social groups).

Interesting differences also come to light when comparing assets and marital status.

It will surprise no-one that single mothers and unmarried women usually have less opportunity to amass wealth. As a result, they rank either among the households that have only debts or their savings are minimal.

But the combination between material wealth and number of children is surprising. The higher the parents' position on the asset pyramid, the more children they have on average.

Wicke and Mierheim remark: "The more children a family has, the greater the concentration of households in the upper asset brackets" — a formulation that can easily lead to confusing cause and effect.

Those who have hitherto divided society into classes have usually drawn a line between the owners of the means of production and those "exploited" by them. But the Mierheim-Wicke study suggests that it would be more helpful if policymakers were to distinguish between the lucky owners of real estate and the rest.

Startling differences come to light when comparing the assets of these two groups. While no other social group comes near the self-employed in terms of average assets, the self-employed without title to real estate are out-performed on the capital front even by blue-collar workers owning their homes.

But it must be said that two-thirds of the self-employed own their homes, only

one-third paying rent. The ratio, among blue-collar workers is reversed.

In each social group the average assets of those owning homes and real estate are three times as high (self-employed), and 20 times as high among farmers, than among families without land.

And since home or real estate owners are in the minority, there is a concentration of assets among them.

Conditions within the two groups are extremely comfortable. In working out the degree of "concentration" for each group, we arrive at 37.5 for the 8.5 million-house and real estate owners and 36.5 for the have-nots in real estate terms.

We are thus considerably closer to an absolutely equal distribution of assets (zero points) within this group than when viewing the general distribution where the degree of concentration, 75, is much closer to absolute inequality (100 points).

Using these figures, Horst Mierheim and Lutz Wicke also try to answer the question whether the concentration of assets in the Federal Republic of Germany has increased or diminished between 1969 and 1973.

They conclude that the employed have succeeded in increasing their share in overall assets, while the self-employed and farmers have yielded ground.

But in practical terms this shift is not all that large because the number of households of the employed has risen while the number of self-employed and farmers has dropped.

The consequences for the personal concentration of assets are therefore not as grave as suggested by the table because many former self-employed who are now employed or retired transferred their assets into other statistical groups.

Even though it is impossible in a market economy to distribute assets absolutely equally — nor is this desirable — Mierheim and Wicke arrive at the following conclusion: we are still far removed from conditions that could in all good conscience be termed an equitable distribution of assets.

This assessment is somewhat mitigated by the slight improvement in the distribution between 1969 and 1973. But this is hardly a feather in Bonn's cap.

Having examined the effects of Bonn's savings promotion, Mierheim and Wicke say: "The reasons for this development are certainly least of all attributable to a successful capital formation policy because the instruments of this policy were applied to a much too inadequate extent to the lower income and asset bracket."

Instead, the authors attribute the change to the heavy increase in mass incomes, and hence the increased ability of employees to save, and to the Third Capital Formation Act (the DM624 legislation), "one of the few effective instruments in that sector."

Since the survey still points to a "high degree of concentration in personal assets," the authors say it is urgent to attach more importance to capital formation policies.

But whether this wish will be met and whether Bonn will at last do something to make the work force participate in productive capital is doubtful.

Although, in his government policy statements of 1974 and 1976 Chancellor Schmidt promised to draft a bill for capital formation and to remove the obstacles preventing labour from having equities in their companies, Bonn has so far remained reluctant to touch this "delicate issue" (Schmidt).

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(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 October 1978)

(Die Zeit, 10 October 1978)

WEAPONS

Arms industry wins battle for weapon reputations

Germany's arms manufacturers are riding the crest of the wave again, and their unabashed confidence in the quality of their products was demonstrated recently by Raimund Gernerhausen, technical director of Düsseldorf arms factory Rheinmetall.

Commenting on press reports praising his company's 126 mm smooth-bore gun for the Leopard II assault tank, Herr Gernerhausen said in all modesty: "This assessment does not only flatter us — we consider it correct as well."

He applied the same praise to the new 155 mm field howitzer (the first of which went into service last month), developed jointly by Britain, Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The barrel of this weapon with its range of 24 km with standard ammunition and 30 km with a special projectile comes from the Düsseldorf factory.

Other armaments also enjoy an excellent reputation. The Leopard I assault tank now has more than 4,500 in service and, apart from the Bundeswehr, is being used by a number of European armies. Even the Canadians have placed an order with the Munich makers, Krauss-Maffei.

The Australians, too, who combed the world for a suitable tank, found none better.

The Shah of Iran would also have liked to equip his troops with the Leopard, but Bonn turned down the deal, as it did when Saudi Arabia wanted to buy the German Mark II tank.

The demand proves that it is not only conceited when German arms manufacturers claim to be the world's best — at least in some areas.

But only in a few cases can German manufacturers meet demand because the law controlling military weapons requires a special licence for every deal.

These licences, which must be approved by the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Economic Affairs, are usually granted only for Nato countries, Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland enjoy the same status.

But on principle no arms may be sold to potential conflict areas. Arms deals are only approved if there is no reason to anticipate any departure from peaceful co-existence and harm to Bonn's foreign relations.

In practice, licences are almost never issued, except for naval vessels where the rules are less stringent.

Thus, for instance, the Shah will not receive German tanks though he is free to order naval vessels.

Despite Bonn's restrictive policy, German weapons can be found in many countries. The G3 rifle, made by Heckler and Koch, Oberndorf, Swabia, is used not only by the Bundeswehr and nine other West European countries, but also by nine Middle East, five Far East, nine Latin American and 15 African countries, including Idi Amin's Uganda.

But not all G3s are made in Germany. The company has found it profitable to issue manufacturing licences world-wide.

The Bundeswehr MG3 machine gun, a successor to the Second World War's legendary MG42, made by Rheinmetall, is also made in Spain, Portugal and Pakistan.

Bonn legislation can be circumvented by foreign subsidiaries, and if weapons

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developed jointly with foreign partners, take the fancy of non-Nato countries. There is little Bonn can do about it.

The federal government was thus unable to prevent the Milan anti-tank missile, developed jointly by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) and a French company, finding its way to Syria.

MBB's French partner imported the German components and sold the complete weapon to the crisis area through Euromissile, a Brussels-based company.

It is certain that France will also meet the demands of a number of African states for the German-French Alpha-Jet training and light fighter plane.

But even arms exported with a Bonn licence frequently appear in parts of the world where no-one expects to see them.

Although countries receiving regular exports must sign and undertake that the weapons will not be passed on, there is little Bonn can do if they fail to honour it.

But despite routes by which German weapons can find their way abroad, arms manufacturers are not doing an exorbitant export business.

This industry exported on average an annual DM1 billion worth of military hardware over the past few years.

According to the metalworkers union, this amounts to 0.29 per cent of overall German exports. But even if Defence Minister Apel's recent figure of 0.4 per cent is correct, the arms manufacturers' share in exports is still tiny compared with the 19 per cent of total exports of US arms manufacturers and the 12 and 9 per cent respectively for British and French manufacturers.

The arms business plays a major role in the national economies of those countries, which cannot be said for the Federal Republic of Germany.

This country's 200,000 people employed in the arms industry represents

only 0.8 per cent of the 25 million labour force.

The DM9.7 billion which the Bundeswehr spent at home on arms purchases last year accounts for only 2.15 per cent of the total sales of the manufacturing industry.

Only a handful of German companies specialising in arms and ammunition depend almost entirely on arms orders.

According to Defence Minister Hans Apel, their annual turnover amounts to about DM1 billion.

The space and aviation industry is not included in these figures. Of its overall turnover of DM3.8 billion, 60 per cent comes from arms orders. As a comparison, in the shipbuilding industry military orders accounted for a mere five per cent.

The few companies depending entirely on weapons and equipment have for years been calling on Bonn to loosen up on exports. They point to the uncertainty of Bundeswehr orders and thus the job uncertainty of their workers.

The works council members of these companies have formed a work group supporting the demands of management — much to the displeasure of the trade union federation.

Bonn has not only remained myfelling but has made the legislation even tighter.

The newly-introduced Section 4a narrows the legislation still further by making brokerage deals for arms outside this country also subject to licensing.

This tightening of the law, directed against illegal arms dealers, also hampers above-board manufacturers because they find it difficult to go along with customary international procedures in the business.

It is, for instance, customary that the seller of machine guns also provides the ammunition. But machine gun ammunition made in Germany is much too expensive and scarce. As a rule, the machine gun suppliers buy the ammunition from other countries (for instance Turk-

ey, where the Bundeswehr also buys its ammunition).

According to the new legislation, however, these deals require licences. But red tape makes it very difficult to obtain them.

Obviously arms manufacturers and dealers are upset by the new regulation — although things are probably not quite as bad as depicted by Rheinmetall's Dietrich Falck, who "maintains that he teeters on the threshold of passion."

Any hopes arms manufacturers might have had were dashed last month when Defence Minister Apel, in a speech marking the introduction of the new field howitzers, repeated his mild line.

Bonn does not want arms exports to increase, not only for foreign policy, but also for domestic reasons. Stepped-up arms exports would extend existing production capacities, which would have to be utilised permanently. But Bonn Ministers (as opposed to those of Britain and France) are reluctant to cross the world peddling arms.

Herr Apel's predecessor, Georg Leber, was an exception. He made an all-out effort to sell Leopard II to the United States, both for economic reasons and for the sake of standardisation within Nato.

Actually, the United States never contemplated importing the Leopard II from Germany. It considered making it under licence.

The deal fell through due to the opposition of the US Army, which felt that it would be an imposition on the GIs to expect them to fight with a tank not entirely US-made.

Present talks are only on the 120 mm smooth bore gun which the United States is to install in its XM1 tank.

Rheinmetall is prepared to sell the licence for 50 million dollars, but there is still a hitch. The Americans do not want the weapons solely for their own use but also for sale throughout the world.

The Germans, on the other hand, are only prepared to licence manufacture for America's own use and exports under US military assistance, as well as for shipments in case of war.

Naturally, the Germans would like to make the deal with other countries themselves.

Ludger Stein-Ruegenberg
(Deutsche Zeitung, 3 November 1978)

Gepard tank gives army an edge in the sky

The new German Gepard anti-aircraft tank means the army is catching up with the air force and navy, hitherto the prime beneficiaries of modern weapons technology.

Presenting the new weapons system to MPs, military attachés of friendly nations and officers of the other branches of the armed forces, the Inspector of the Army said: "At present, the Gepard is the most modern cannon-based anti-aircraft system known to us."

According to experts, no other nation is building a similar high-performance system — not even the United States, although the American Division Air Defence (Divad), a system similar to Gepard, is being developed.

But the American project is several years behind its German counterpart.

DIE WELT

The Warsaw Pact, too, has nothing comparable. The Soviet anti-aircraft tank ZSU-23-4 is nowhere near the German weapon in performance.

While the Gepard can combat attacking aircraft at a range of up to four kilometers in any weather, day and night, the Soviet tank, though also radar-controlled, is only effective in good weather. Its Czechoslovakian anti-aircraft guns have a range of under two kilometers.

Two Army will get 412 Gepards and by the end of the next decade all 12 Army divisions will have Gepard regiments.

With the anti-aircraft missile tank Roland to be introduced later and capable of attacking high altitude targets, the Gepard regiments will provide an air umbrella, enabling the army to remain mobile on the battlefield by eliminating the threat from the air.

The Sixth Armoured Division, stationed in Schleswig-Holstein, already has its Gepard regiment. In Lütjenburg, it demonstrated how much technical and organisational work and manpower goes into training the Gepard (their word means hunting leopard).

Officers, NCOs and enlisted men have expressed their satisfaction with the high-performance weapon.

Equipped with two 35 mm guns 360 degrees scanning radar, radar for the monitoring of targets, and a second laser-operated range finder, the Gepard is equipped with electronic devices.

This requires skilled technicians in uniform, who are being trained by the army in one-year courses at the technical school in Aachen. Rüdiger Montjeu
(Die Welt, 30 October 1978)

FOREIGN AID

Development aid experts find rewards (and risks) abroad

Although the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) last year had 1,060 workers in 90 Third World countries, it is not nearly as well known as the German Development Service (DED), which had 754 helpers in 21 countries.

"Every time I say I worked for a development aid project in Africa people think of DED," says Heinz K. (DED stands for *Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst*). "But I spent four years in Nigeria as a GTZ expert, an organisation of which hardly anyone has ever heard."

GTZ stands for *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*. Says Heinz K.: "This is particularly surprising if one takes into account that GTZ is financed entirely by the taxpayer, who should be interested in what happens to his money."

In fact, GTZ is a smaller sibling of the Bundesbahn and Bundespost (the federal railway system and the postal authority). Although a private enterprise in legal terms, all GTZ shares are held by the federal government.

The organisation, formed in January 1975 by the merger of the government *Bundesstelle für Entwicklungshilfe* (federal authority for development aid) and the privately-owned *Garantie-Entwicklungsgesellschaft* (guarantee processing company), has the job of implementing Bonn's development aid agreements.

GTZ employs about 1,600 people, of whom 550 are domestic staff in the extensive administrative offices in Eschborn near Frankfurt.

This is where projects are planned, negotiations with developing countries, organisations and supplier companies take place, where workers for foreign assignments are appointed and current projects supervised.

At present, GTZ is involved in 600 projects in the Third World, for 400 of which it provides 1,060 experts.

Another 580 specialists work on 200 other projects with consulting firms.

On top of this, GTZ subsidises 148 "integrated specialists", boosting their salaries to equal those of its own experts.

More and more Third World countries opt for these integrated specialists, who are selected and hired by GTZ but paid by the country concerned of local terms and conditions.

Heinz K. says about himself: "Five years ago a friend drew my attention to GAWI, the precursor of GTZ. Until then I too only knew about DED. I applied and heard nothing further for a year. Then I received a telegram saying that there was a vacancy for me in Nigeria."

"I had no idea what my salary would be, and I was sceptical when told during an interview with the personnel department that most experts manage to put aside enough money to buy themselves a home on returning to Germany after expiry of their contracts."

Most contracts between GTZ and experts are for two years, when they can be extended by either party depending on the progress of a project.

Says Herr K.: "If you get assigned to the right country and live happily there

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is no reason why you should not be able to save two-thirds of the purchase price for a home. GTZ pays well, and the domestic salary, in keeping with local rates of pay, is supplemented by an allowance for living abroad and by a further sum to offset differences in buying power.

In the case of Nigeria, this was 50 per cent of the domestic salary, plus the allowance for residence abroad.

"If you are married you get a considerable household allowance. In countries where the buying power subsidy is high, earnings can easily reach between DM8,000 and DM9,000 per month. And if you're lucky you won't even have to pay taxes, because if your family goes with you, you are tax exempt in Germany."

"And in many instances you are not taxable in your place of residence because salaries are transferred to a German bank account in Deutschmarks."

There are other favourable terms. Social security and unemployment contributions continue to be paid. The employer also continues to pay half of the national health insurance.

This is further enhanced by free air fares for holidays and by the employer paying the moving expenses for the whole family.

Those physically fit to work in the tropics and capable of passing GTZ tests — wives too have to undergo a psychological test to determine ability to adjust — are also given an opportunity to learn

the language and the ways of the host country in a three-month seminar, paid for by GTZ.

About 100 GTZ staff members and their wives are now preparing for work abroad. The domestic salary is paid in full during their courses.

But despite the favourable conditions, the GTZ is finding it increasingly difficult to recruit staff for the 217 overseas posts open at present.

The organisation is looking for experts in almost all fields — the emphasis being on graduates, on which many developing countries insist. Some of these countries even reject graduate engineers because the degree is not internationally recognised.

As a result, the people GTZ is looking for usually hold good positions at home. Many fear the risk of finding themselves without a job after their contracts.

Though GTZ helps returnees find a job and pays a bridging salary for three months, those unable to find a new position during that time must live on unemployment benefits.

Says Heinz K.: "The high salaries are therefore perfectly warranted. At present it is not easy to find a job in this country. I'm a mechanical engineer and have had several jobs offered."

"I'm due to start work again soon, but I know many others who have looked for work for months and some who have been unemployed for a year. The situation is particularly bad for agronomists, who have learned a lot about agriculture in the tropics, but this is of little use at home."

Some 60 per cent of GTZ experts are agronomists. Many have spent years

abroad and some have worked in the Third World for more than ten years, having been employed in German development projects during the GAWI era.

But they are the exception. In the normal course, contracts can be extended by one to two years, when a local should be in a position to take over the work of the German expert.

This means the latter must return home. Not all want to stay in the Third World, and in some cases they have no chance to do so. Frequently there is no suitable follow-up project, and in many instances family reasons preclude another stint abroad; very few projects are near cities with schools to which German children can be sent, and even fewer have a German school.

Technicians frequently find themselves out of touch with developments in Germany after spending several years in a developing country.

According to the GTZ, it is wise to work at home for a few years before taking another job abroad.

Many German companies still view applicants who have worked for the GTZ as somewhat shifty and adventurous people, and they prefer more solid stay-at-homes.

The fear of re-integration difficulties is thus not unfounded. As a result, it seems to be becoming more and more the privilege of civil servants to be sent abroad as well-paid experts. They are given leave of absence for the GTZ contract and on their return not only get their old job back but often a promotion.

Many of the overseas veterans are drawn to the tropics again after a few years. Some try to get a job with a German company that would send them abroad while others sign up again with the GTZ, abandoning their relatively secure jobs in Germany and accepting a limited GTZ contract.

Heinz K. is likely to be one of them in a few years' time.

Gert Wöhe
(Die Zeit, 3 November 1978)

Third World projects meet basic needs says Bonn

About a quarter of Germany's development aid in the past four years was directed at areas of basic need, in keeping with the latest development aid strategy of the industrial world, says the Bonn Development Aid Ministry in a memorandum to the Bundestag Development Aid Committee.

The ministry says the results have been satisfactory. "The basic needs strategy is based on the realisation that a rapid growth of the GNP alone has not contributed towards overcoming poverty and inequality of income in many countries."

It is largely agreed among international development aid experts that more funds must be provided to meet basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, and vital public services such as drinking water, sanitation, health and educational facilities.

But the Development Aid Ministry says that economic growth is equally important in the long run in combatting poverty.

The Bonn government, which supported a statement to this effect by the

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Development Aid Committee of the OECD, need not fear comparison with other countries. Its development policy having taken into account the basic needs strategy.

Important aspects of this development policy according to the needs of individual countries rather than on a global scale, and thinking in "long chains of consistency."

Another prerequisite is that the projects be carried by the developing country itself in the long term rather than cause continuing costs to the donor.

The long-term presence of workers is frequently said to be necessary. Demands on planning and project preparation have become stiffer. Here independent institutions such as churches and foundations must play a special role.

In its memorandum, the ministry also points to resistance on the part of developing countries to the basic needs strategy.

Their mistrust is due to the suspicion that this is an attempt by the industrial countries to distract from the ultimate object of a "New International Economic Order." They also point to stagnating financial assistance and a growing trend towards protectionism in the industrial countries.

Moreover, the Third World views this strategy as an attempt to hamper the industrialisation of developing countries and thus competition from them.

This also applies to the "threshold countries." The problem is further aggravated by sovereignty consciousness and the American human rights policy.

Among the difficulties in implementing the strategy the Ministry also mentions underdeveloped planning capacities in the developing countries and inadequate administrative and planning facilities in the Federal Republic.

Another objection, by the Third World, the memorandum says, is the contention that achieving a minimum income and standard of living in all states requires higher growth rates and measures aimed at changing growth structure and the use of means of production by the various income groups.

(Handelsblatt, 7 November 1978)

■ TECHNOLOGY

Europe's space research plans running into obstacles

Space research in Western Europe faces crucial decisions. While the Spacelab prototype and preparations for the first capsule to carry out space missions are progressing, political, economic and technical obstacles are growing.

After a long period of uncertainty, Nasa, the US aerospace agency, has finally set fresh deadlines for the Space Shuttle programme.

Lee Scherer of the Kennedy Space Centre, Cape Canaveral, Florida, told a two-day conference at the Bremen head offices of Erno, the West German aerospace company, that the first launching was planned for 28 September 1979.

This deadline would be met if there was no further delay in assembling and testing the craft. The first Space Shuttle launching with Spacelab on board is planned for July 1981.

Western European companies associated with the project are upset that Nasa has yet to place a firm order for the second Spacelab. By the transatlantic agreement, the order should long since have been made.

Esa, the European Space Agency, is engaged in complicated negotiations with Nasa to enable the Americans to pay for Spacelab 2 in kind not cash: an agreed number of launchings on board the Space Shuttle.

Agreement would help all concerned. Nasa is chronically short of cash and Europe could expect the order soon.

Bremer Nachrichten

Launching costs are the first problem likely to arise at the talks. Assembly and trials are not yet over, but the figures Nasa quotes are obviously out of date and further price increases are likely.

At the same time Nasa is said to be stepping up the technical requirements of Spacelab 2 at such a rate that Europe also faces spiralling development costs.

There is also a clause in the agreement which entitles the United States to cancel all provisions and develop a spacelab of its own should the European project prove too expensive.

The clause does not define what constitutes a reasonable price.

Erno managing director Bernd Kosegarten says the United States wants to retain the option of going it alone after delivery of Spacelab 2, manufacturing and operating spacelabs of its own.

The terms on which Esa is entitled to use the Space Shuttle-Spacelab link-up are another snag. They will, as matters stand, be no different from the terms offered to any other country, including East bloc states, even though Europe has a substantial stake in the programme.

"European taxpayers are going to take a dim view of this," says Kosegarten.

Esa is negotiating on Europe's behalf, but West German companies associated with Spacelab clearly would prefer greater backing from Bonn.

The French government, for instance, sees supporting French companies abroad as one of its foremost duties.

But Bonn Research Minister Volker Hauff did not sound wildly enthusiastic in Bremen. All he had to say about the profitability of Spacelab and prospects of commercial research and development in space was:

"We shall have to make sure exaggerated technical requirements and management structures do not force us to forfeit the opportunity."

His first reference, is clearly to the specifications Nasa wants Spacelab 2 to meet, felt to be exaggerated. Herr Kosegarten explained the reference to management structures.

US and European companies, he said, were working on the industrial operation of both Space Shuttle and Spacelab. Esa and Nasa, with their cumbersome and costly administration, are to be phased out of a space venture conducted on commercial lines.

Herr Hauff was non-committal on further funding of, say, conversion of Spacelab into a space platform unit. His Ministry would not be financing any such project or further underwriting industrial and scientific use of Spacelab.

Bonn had first to gain a clearer idea of actual demand, he said. Ware-industry and science interested in booking experiments on board Spacelab, and to what extent?

Aerospace companies are up against it. The Space Shuttle looks like proving so much more expensive than estimated that industry in particular could be deterred from making use of the project.

This is why efforts are under way to operate it on a commercial basis, but a breakthrough to commercial utilisation remains a distant prospect.

"We would do well to remember that the first commercial satellite was not launched until eight years after the original Sputnik," Herr Kosegarten said.

Yet if European governments were going to lend Spacelab companies only half-hearted backing, the Europeans would remain at a distinct disadvantage compared with the Americans and the prospects of success would deteriorate.

Hartmut Fritz
(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 November 1978)

Bonn professor unveils cheap new battery

Professor Wolf Vielsch, head of physical chemistry at Bonn University, has unveiled a new battery powered by an aluminium electrode and fresh air. It is filled with seawater or a solution of sodium chloride, or common salt, and is an everlasting battery in that the aluminium electrode can be replaced when necessary.

Professor Vielsch showed his battery at a West Berlin conference on electrochemistry and the environment.

The fresh air electrode is a kind of box in the salt water, closed on one side by a membrane which lets through oxygen.

What happens is that oxygen passes through into the water, which is broken down into hydroxyl groups, each of which carries an electric charge to the aluminium, with which it forms a compound, releasing the electricity.

Materials are inexpensive, so the new battery should prove much cheaper than conventional dry batteries. But it cannot as yet be used to power transistor radios or flashlights because it is open on top.

This drawback may be eliminated in further development. Walter Buler
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 November 1978)

Nuclear reactor stands up to dive-bombing

experiments at Grosswiesenthal, a hot-steam reactor no longer on the active list.

A direct-hit plane crash may be a fairly remote prospect, but since 1971 reactor planning procedures have required specifications to cover the eventuality. The reinforced concrete reactor casing must be crashproof.

The reason for this precaution is not merely that there are now many more nuclear reactors; there is also high civil and military air traffic in West German air space.

The Meppen trials assume that aircraft for the most part consist of deformable parts that concentrate on impact.

Were an aircraft to crash head-on into a rigid structure, much of the impact energy would be absorbed by the aircraft breaking up. But the reinforced concrete casing would need to withstand the rest.

The public trial proved the point. The one-ton steel projectile six metres (20 ft) long hit the wall at a speed of 257.5 metres per second.

It folded up like a concertina and what was left was only two and a half metres (8 ft 2 in) long.

The Meppen trials are part of a more extensive reactor safety research programme. A direct hit by a crippled plane is not the only external risk; there are also earth tremors and gas explosions.

The quake risk is being probed by

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■ TRANSPORT

Drivers warned: remember your physical limits

The human eye can only distinguish 18 separate frames a second, a coprefence on speed and road accidents at Cologne University was told earlier this month.

Anything faster than about 20 miles an hour is seen as continual motion and is harder to assess visually, so thinking ahead at three times this speed or more is a remarkable achievement.

A doctor at the four-day interdisciplinary conference said technical development in vehicle construction had reached and already exceeded the limits of human ability.

The trend should be halted, he said but his view was one of many opinions at a gathering where no-one expected the last word to be said.

Liselotte Moser, a psychologist, made a number of basic points that motorists would do well to bear in mind.

Light rays reflected by a pedestrian or moving vehicle, she said, hit different parts of the retina in succession, thereby creating the impression of motion.

The same impression is created when we look out from a car as we drive past a row of houses. The houses appear to be moving.

We know, of course, that they are not, but there are times when the optical impression deceives the conscious mind, so creating an illusion.

The appearance of the road may well create an optical illusion at accident black spots, illustrating how important the road and perception of traffic are for road safety.

Perception of movement is hampered by the limits of the human

eye. The shortest period of time within which the eye can distinguish a separate image is an eighteenth of a second.

Faster motion is seen as continual movement, just as 24 or 36 frames a second are on the cinema screen.

If the eye were 1,000 times faster we should be able to see a bullet flying through the air, but 20 miles an hour is about the fastest speed we can clearly see.

If the human eye were 20 times faster, we should have no difficulty coping with traffic at speed. Traffic moving at 60 miles an hour would be as easy to follow as a pedestrian.

Given the limits of the human eye it is surprising how well we cope at high speed. In a lifetime traffic accidents are statistically infrequent. This is because motorists are selective in what they see, having set their sights in accordance with the requirements of fast-moving traffic.

The ideal sighting and vision range in traffic is not yet known, but surveys have shown that on fast and country roads experienced motorists tend to set their sights on obstacles at least 100 yards ahead.

Inexperienced drivers concentrate on shorter ranges.

Surveys on trunk roads also indicate that experienced motorists tend to drive using points about three seconds ahead to guide them, distance varying with speed.

This is crucially important, since the experienced driver thus has three seconds as a rule in which to react; usually enough to brake or take evasive action.

The motorist who is less sure of himself will look more often at points closer ahead. His reactions are slower, or at least less automatic.

So he will not only see an obstacle

later than the old hand; he will also be slower to react.

Dr Moser also told the conference about the results of an experiment with five experienced drivers on a fast road closed to other traffic. Her motor-

ists drove along the road wearing glasses which blocked out vision for four seconds, then let them see for one second. Despite this handicap they not only maintained a steady 60 miles per hour, they also drove in much their usual way. To drive on at speed in the circumstances was either to take an unrealistic risk or to place inordinate confidence in the

organiser of the experiment. Even on clearways, motorists cannot rely on never meeting unexpected obstacles. Yet during the four seconds in which they were blindfolded the test drivers must have covered more than 125 yards. Estimating the speed of other roadsters is often a crucial factor in road safety. Surveys show that estimates are progressively less accurate at speeds of more than 20 miles per hour.

A survey of 250 people shows that on average speeds of 20 mph are assessed accurately, whereas vehicles travelling at 80 mph are generally felt to be 30 per cent slower than they are.

Another factor is that subjective speed assessment depends on the position of the observer. The speed of an oncoming vehicle is usually assessed fairly accurately, whereas that of an overtaking vehicle is overestimated.



Smooth rider

Experimental suspension railway at Mannheim runs on rubber-coated wheels along a sheet-metal track suspended on prestressed wires. It is stable and ensures a smooth ride even at the pylons. Safety checks can also be made without interrupting services. Trials of the new Mannheim railroad, which has interested interested town planners and public transport officials in Germany and abroad, have proved entirely satisfactory.

(Photo: Bohnert & Neusch)

Misjudged speeds can prove extremely dangerous in overtaking, especially when the vehicle attempting to overtake is slower than the oncoming one.

This survey also shows that the margin of error in speed assessment remains constant regardless of whether drivers are experienced.

So all motorists will have to accept that they are not too good at assessing speeds and take special care where speed differences may prove vital.

J. Fischer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 November 1978)

Call for more slow traffic play streets

Klaus Jürgen Hoffie, Free Democrat transport spokesman in the Bundestag, has called on Hesse local authorities to designate more play streets.

Road safety drill alone was not enough to halt the increasing number of road accidents to children, he said. Children could not be expected to estimate distances and speeds accurately.

Local authorities ought to improve road safety to and from school, build more cycle tracks and set on traffic restriction plans in residential areas where most accidents happened.

Experience in other countries and experiments in West Germany indicated that up to 80 per cent fewer accidents happened in play streets where cars had to drive at walking pace, he said.

The Bonn government will shortly be introducing legislation to empower local authorities to help road safety in this way.

They will, for instance, be able to extend night driving bans to daylight hours and to introduce pedestrian, bicycle and restricted traffic areas.

In International Children's Year, the Free Democrats would like to see local authorities make a practical contribution to road safety for the young.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 November 1978)

Transport world shows wares in Hamburg

try's most important transport junction and communications centre.

Excursions will concentrate on six sectors: shipping, public transport, aviation, the postal service, rail traffic and road transport.

Shipping, for instance, will include the two Waltersdorf container terminals, Hansaport, the port radar facilities, the Hydrographic Institute, the meteorological office, the shipbuilding research institute and Schanzebeek locks on the Elbe canal.

Public transport will be shown by Hamburg corporation transport department, featuring a bus and suburban electric railway junction and a demonstration of the standardised fare system throughout the city.

Aviation specialists will be able to tour the Lufthansa hangars at Hamburg airport and the Hamburger Flugzeugbau, where the Airbus is in part manufactured and assembled.

The Bundespost's showcase is its new parcels post office, the largest and most up-to-date in the country.

The Bundesbahn will be featuring not only the shunting yards at Maschen but also the new railhead at Altona, handling both suburban and long-distance rail traffic.

Hamburg also has road transport showpieces such as automatic supervision and control of traffic in Europe's longest underwater tunnel.

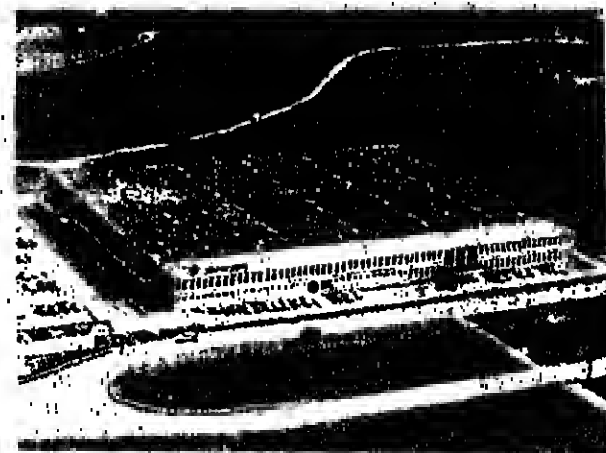
Then there is the traffic control centre at police headquarters, motor fuel testing at a Hamburg refinery and trials of the Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm dial-a-bus system.

But one of the main attractions will undoubtedly be the hovertrain. Much of the 900-metre track from St Pauli to the exhibition grounds has been completed.

The track is mounted on concrete pylons seven metres (22 ft) tall and crossing an open space, currently housing a funfair. It will shortly be extended to span a crossroads into the exhibition ground station.

Project engineers say work is going ahead on time. Trials of the hovertrain should start by January or February, so it will be hovering according to schedule when the transport fair opens.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 November 1978)



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CINEMA

Hof festival: the wounds of Autumn still bleed

Germany in Autumn, a year on. All is quiet in the country, or so it seems. But the fears and the wounds remain.

Hardly anyone making films in Germany dreams of changes and even the quality of their resignation has changed. No-one is content with melancholic insight, with a cautious balance of losses.

The German cinema is developing into a cinema of neuroses, of psychic deformations. Images of sickness increasingly dominate the imaginations of our filmmakers. (The American Friend was only the beginning). The scenes have shifted from the open countryside to closed institutions.

These are just a few impressions after four days at the Hof film festival. Hof is a small border town which for four days in autumn, thanks to the efforts of the excellent Heinz Badewitz, becomes the cinematographic capital of the country.

The most important premieres of the autumn take place in Hof and even successful producers and distributors value the three cinemas of the Central Theatre as a testing ground for their works, especially because of the mixed audiences: filmmakers, cinema-owners and critics sitting harmoniously beside the youth of Upper Franconia, who cannot easily be taken in. Films that go down well in Hof have good chances of doing well elsewhere.

I remember faces on and off the screen: that of Herbert Achternbusch, hidden behind a pair of sunglasses and a big black hat. Achternbusch acted as if Hof was at least as important as Hollywood (which is not completely wrong because Hollywood came to Hof, this year in the shape of Monte Hellmann, who showed all his work).

Anyway, Achternbusch hopped around on the stage, every inch a star and greeted guests at the preview of his new film *Der junge Monch* (The Young Monk) with a self-assured "Hi, fans" which was premature to say the least, as there was only embarrassed silence when the film was over.

People in Hof are not yet prepared for the end of the world — the subject of Achternbusch's film — especially when the new god of the survivors (easily identifiable as a regular member of the Achternbusch troupe) is a chocolate Easter egg from the Tengelmann company.

The rest of our planet looks like Iceland and a suburb of Munich, and in this desolate area they worship a Tengelmann egg.

"It didn't used to be like this, did it?" Herbert asks and so they set about recreating a order that never existed. Postman Helmz becomes a cardinal and works for the Voluntary Suicide Control, of which fat old Karolina becomes a victim: she is loved to death.

In the Vatican, Herbert, Heinz and two male nuns play cards. On one occasion Herbert is a woman, on another he is a baby. Regression fantasies, wicked and director than in Achternbusch's earlier films (which themselves were crazy enough), but sometimes confusingly solemn and shitlike.

Auarchism is not a solemn matter and the film suffers from this. Fortunately Achternbusch does not bother too much about meanings, and points to the okapi

found in the Congo in 1906: people did not ask what they should do with the strange animal; they were simply delighted at its existence. This is one way of enjoying this Bavarian visit to the planet of the apes.

I remember the face of Klaus Kinski, which haunted the audience for only six silent minutes: drawn features, a head shaved bare, burning eyes expressing extreme concentration and exhaustion. This is how Werner Herzog's *Woyzeck* will look — like a concentration camp prisoner who has been drilled and tortured to madness. The excerpts from his film that Herzog showed his friends indicate that this is going to be an unusual film.

I remember the face of Bruno Ganz, distraught, nervous, feverishly in search of an identity which a bullet from a police gun snuffed out for a while. *Messer im Kopf* (Knife in the Head), the title of the new film by Reinhard Hauff, could almost be the leitmotiv for this year's Hof festival because there were so many knives in so many heads there, ciphers for the clinical confusion of the mind and the feelings, for the difficulties in standing the pressure of suffering. *Messer im Kopf* is a hospital film: less a political than a private drama.

I remember the narrow face of the young actress Susanne Granzel in Hans-Rüdiger Minow's first feature film *Die Anstalt* (The Institution). Her face is at first full of amazement, then of anger, and finally of fear.

She plays the part of a psychologist who has just left university and as an experiment has had herself transferred to a psychiatric clinic as a patient. Like Bruno Ganz in *Messer im Kopf*, she is soon confronted with a system which is

DIE ZEIT

more concerned with repairs than with real cures, in which patients are "traumatised" with psycho-drugs and in which all fears are used to psychic causes.

The psychologist finds out how easy it is to be put into an institution and how difficult to get out again. Her own father forces her back into madness.

Die Anstalt is a grey film, bald, unemotional and at times rather ponderously directed: a deliberate counter to the garish sensations which Sant Fuller once invented for his film on the same subject, *Shock Corridor*.

Despite this, the film becomes increasingly oppressive. Precisely the apparently dull indifference with which Minow registers this story of a loss of reality illustrates the everyday inhumanity of the way men treat men.

I remember the fixed, inscrutable face of a young girl called Brigitt Hoffmeister, who plays the main part in Gisela Stelly's first long film *Liebe und Abenteuer* (Love and Adventure).

Eighteen and blonde, Lara does not share the boutique dreams of the disco-teens. She wanders aimlessly around Hamburg, from one lousy job to the next. The careers adviser suggests a job in a book-keeping department but Lara wants to experience adventures which no longer exist.

She works as a children's nanny, an office messenger-girl, a factory worker. Unmoved as a zombie she goes through a zombie world in which the male zombies abuse her and the female zombies complain about the impotence of their men.

Lara finds herself when she dances but only for moments; outside her refuge, a seedy bar, she only comes up against stony desolation. She is turned to stone herself until she tries to break out in the tunnel of the underground.

Gisela Stelly's film, which has clearly been influenced by Jacques Rivette in many places, is not the usual social schmalz but an attempt to portray the heroine's dilemma by means of poetic stylisations. However for the moment this filmmaker's ambitions exceed her technical grasp: practically every take seems arbitrary in picture build-up and in length and could easily be replaced by any other. A narrative rhythm only emerges in places.

But Love and Adventure, neither of which occurs, is another one in the series of films about sickness. There is a short sequence in which Lara, working in a hospital, looks after a child who has just had an eye operation.

I remember a face which will still be in my mind when the other films at Hof have faded out of memory. It is not the face of an actor but of an agricultural labourer from the village of Darshoven in Upper Franconia who died in October 1977.

The man's name is Fritz Binner, even though one sometimes thinks that this is the face of Boris Karloff: it is a very unusual face, coarse rather than handsome, with big, protruding ears, a face full of amazement at the world, sometimes merely dull, then again curious and even cocky.

Like Karloff, Binner is a gentle giant, a man of curiously awkward movements and stiff gait. We see how strange he finds his own strength, how little this giant body seems to fit his gentle nature.

For almost two hours Fritz Binner dominates the screen in Josef Rödl's film *Albert — Warum* (Albert — Why?). The best film at Hof and at the same time the most impressive film debut in 6 years not noted for surprises. *Albert — Warum* is the degree film of Munich film student Rödl, who was born in Darshoven in 1949.

The inhabitants of the village play all the parts in the film. Fritz Binner is Albert, the village idiot, from whom the rest of the villagers keep away because he was in the "madhouse" and stutters. Rödl shows the spectacular hunting scenes from the provinces but uses his black white camera to show how Albert increasingly withdraws from the village community, how inevitably, without any dramatics, he reaches the edges of this small community.

Albert, who finally lings himself on a church bellrope, is different from the others, and that is enough. Rödl shows how Albert tries to stop his contact with the villagers from breaking off completely and how he finally starts to defend himself when it is far too late.

Albert — Warum is a miracle in two respects: firstly, because Rödl produced this very precise and far from a material film with a small group of friends for a mere DM30,000, and secondly, because he achieves a quiet, poetic resilience comparable with that of Robert Bresson's films *Mouchette* and *Au Hasard Bathazar*. Never has the silence in Hof been so long and the applause following it so thunderous.

Hans C. Blumberg
(Die Zeit, 3 November 1978)

Collection to boost films for children

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The main aim of the German Children's Film Fund formed in Frankfurt at the fourth Children's Film Festival is to collect DM20,000 for children's films.

The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 the Year of the Child and so the Bonn government is being asked to help. For the past 20 years the children's film has been dead in this country, ever since the Young People's Protection Act barred children under six from going to the cinema.

The government will not be allowed to rest with the Children and Young People's Film Centre which is created last year, especially as this annual and under-financed organisation can do nothing to encourage production.

One of the founders of the initiative is Munich film director Harro Senft, who did not stop at words but actually presented a contribution of his own. His film *Ein Tag mit dem Wind* (A Day with the Wind), only partly subsidised by short film grants from the German Film Council, was proof that Harro Senft now has a rival on the German children's film scene.

Ein Tag mit dem Wind is the story of a day in the life of a little boy who goes looking for a female rabbit for his mother. He wanders out into the countryside and the woods and has the strangest adventures. At the Italian International Festival of Children's and Young People's Films Senft's film won the Best Foreign Film Prize.

But one film does not mean the revival of the German children's film. Even at the Frankfurt festival half of the film came from the GDR (A Snowman for Africa, Philipp the Small), Poland (Rolls), the Soviet Union (A Boy and an Elk), Yugoslavia (Luck on a lead) and even Bulgaria (A Problem with Many Unknown Quantities).

If anything can be said against children's films from the East bloc countries, it is certainly not that they are politically coloured. The children's film has long been an area into which apolitical filmmakers can withdraw.

The objection, which could be made despite the high technical quality of the films, is that they are too solidly middle-class and conventional. We meet, for example, a beaming conformist child to the Polish film *Rolls* or strenuous efforts to depict an intact world in a German film consisting of half-timbered houses with bull's eye panes, as in the GDR film *Philipp the Small*.

The English Children's Film Foundation is a very active producer of children's film festival will devote a lot of its space to this work. The organisers, the Communal Cinema in conjunction with the Children's and Young People's Film Centre, will thus have no difficulty in putting on a programme next year.

The only question is whether there will be new German children's films among them or whether the Frankfurt initiative will have drawn a blank.

Ulrike Lohge-Puchelt
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 November 1978)

ART

Courbet and Germany: an intense encounter

Bremer Nachrichten

The Courbet und Deutschland exhibition now being held at the Hamburg Kunsthalle is the biggest and certainly the most important from a qualitative point of view held there in recent years.

The Kunsthalle has not for some time put on many exhibitions of works whose significance goes beyond this country.

This is not the biggest exhibition of Courbet's work. The recent exhibitions in Paris and London presented more. But the Hamburg exhibition is more comprehensive. It does not tie the subject monographically but examines the work of Courbet from an aspect which is highly relevant at the moment: Courbet's relations to Germany and German painters.

The Paris and London exhibitions showed 132 paintings and only ten drawings. Hamburg presents 90 paintings and 25 drawings, on show for the first time. It also has 70 paintings by German painters whose works have affinities or connections with Courbet in a European context.

These two sections, which are far more comprehensive than those of the previous two exhibitions, are complemented by a third complex with a total of 212 exhibits. It is entitled *Discussion, Opposition and Alienation — Germans and French in Search of their Identity*, and gives an outline of the vast area within which moods, opinions and tendencies of the years between 1848 and 1871 were articulated. These years were crucial for Courbet and his German friends.

One should not ignore the current significance of this exhibition by concentrating too heavily on the historical aspect, the comparison of the realism of the French school of the Munich and South-West German schools. The intellectual, artistic and historical importance of the exhibition cannot be overestimated, which is why the exhibition is under the patronage of the Bundespräsident.

The main reason for a separate German exhibition after the various foreign exhibitions to mark the 100th anniversary of Courbet's death is to be sought in the Franco-German political situation over important periods of the 19th century.

The Hamburg exhibition attempts to form a far wider concept of Courbet's art than previous shows, trying to place it within a multiplicity of fields of meaning. In doing so, it sticks to the tradition which Werner Hofmann has developed in a number of previous exhibitions at the Kunsthalle. It ties in with questions posed in last year's *What is Art* exhibition, and with earlier complexes related to the series of exhibitions on art around 1800.

Given the greater number of questions raised, it is hardly surprising that the Hamburg catalogue is twice as big as the French one.

The Paris and London catalogues both had 280 pages, the Hamburg catalogue has 640 pages.

Hofmann wants to take works of art

out of the realm of pure art and put them back in the political and social sphere within which they originated.

The visitor who is less interested in this aspect will still find plenty to delight him — a series of over a hundred masterpieces which will impress even those not too familiar with the historical background. The catalogue, which repudiates "culinary" aspects of art — one of the Hofmann's colleagues once said that he did not like art — is by no means exclusively concerned with the history of ideas and sociology.

Klaus Herding's fine essay called *Colour and World Picture: Theses on Courbet's Painting* goes into details on how Courbet painted his pictures and is a good example of the wide intellectual range of the catalogue and of the exhibition.

As for colour, there is no denying that in Courbet's case it is almost always the mass of colour that predominates, as he is no colourist in the classical sense. If one looks at the series of his pictures in the Kuppelsaal, one notices that his colours generally range among the quieter tones of blue, green, red, brown and grey.

Among the German painters too the refraction of the colour is decisive. It must be said that this seems to be precisely the main characteristic of its own but develops its concept in the manifold refraction of various dimensions of reality.

The refraction of colour corresponds to the sceptical view of the world. The methodical concept is evident from the uniform technique of applying colours with the palette knife which tends to eliminate differences between the objects represented.

The resultant transcendence of the differences between the objects represented — in seascapes, for instance, the differences between sky, sea and beach — means that we can concentrate on what is happening in the picture. This is a purely aesthetic dimension. The individual aspect of social happenings is transcended in a whole which becomes a symbol in the work of art. The many pictures of waves testify to French painter's continuing interest in this problem.

To be certain of Courbet's decisive influence on his

German friends, all one needs to do is look at certain examples. Courbet's still life study of apples is behind the gentle tones of Kärl Schuch's. The portrait attitude is to be found again in the work of Viktor Müller. The Lady on the Terrace, influenced by Mares, and other elements are to be found in the work of Leibl, the most important of the Germans. Never before has there been an encounter of such intensity between French and Germans.

Herbert Albrecht
(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 November 1978)



Courbet's *Girls in a Cornfield* (1865), on show in the Courbet and Germany exhibition at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

Main currents of realism in one exhibition

The Hamburg Kunstverein and the Hamburg Kunsthalle have jointly put on an ambitious double exhibition on modern realism to coincide with the Courbet und Deutschland exhibition at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

The exhibition, which covers the whole panorama of modern international realism, was opened by Günter Guckert, chairman of the Kunstverein.

Presenting the works of 40 artists from Europe and America, the exhibition gives an interesting if not always representative overview of the main currents currently summarised under the concept of realism. In places the exhibition paraphrases the kind of realism on show at the Courbet exhibition.

The motto of the exhibition is: "As a good realist I have to invent everything!" This surprising but certainly tenable dictum was coined by the Canadian Alex Colville, one of the founders of new American realism, whose painting entitled *Witch Out for the Cows* — on loan from the Boymans van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam — is one of the highlights of the exhibition.



Canadian Alex Colville's painting *My Father and his Dog*, from the exhibition of modern realistic painters at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

Colville's sentence is the precise opposite of Courbet's view. Courbet once said that the art of the realistic painter consisted in finding the most perfect means of expressing a thing, and not in inventing or creating the thing oneself.

In the view of Uwe M. Scheede, director of the Kunstverein and organiser of the exhibition, realism is not a style but a method. There are, as he rightly points out, various stylistic means of producing realistic work. The "critical element" and the "aesthetic quality" must both be considered.

"Even realistic paintings must be articulated convincingly," he says. The attempt to "take stock of current trends" remained fragmentary and subjectively coloured in the selection. Pictures reckoned to be socially critical offering distorted or invented realities are over-represented.

On the other hand, the exhibition contains works which are riveting from the purely aesthetic viewpoint but are only marginally realistic and do not really belong here — for example, works by Groll and Hockney.

It is incomprehensible that only two Hamburg painters, Harald Duwe and Almut Heise, are represented, although Hamburg has long been an important centre of realistic work and the Zebra and New Landscape groups have brought important new influences, which have been recognised abroad. When asked about this, Scheede said: "According to our view of realism, the Zebra people do not belong in this exhibition."

The exhibition, as the organisers explain, is divided into two parts. In the Kunstverein, we see mainly aggressive works, whereas in the Kunsthalle the works are more sensitive and reserved. In the main room of the Kunstverein there is an exhibition under the heading *Confrontations*. Here typical pop works by Warhol and Klatz are on display alongside socio-critical group pictures by Duwe, Patrick and GDR artists Siegfried Gille and Volker Stelzmann.

These artists mainly portray distorted realities in the style of the artists of the

Continued on page 13

CINEMA

Hof festival: the wounds of Autumn still bleed

Germany in Autumn, a year on. All is quiet in the country, or so it seems. But the fears and the wounds remain.

Hardly anyone making films in Germany dreams of changes and even the quality of their resignation has changed. No-one is content with melancholic insight, with a cautious balance of losses.

The German cinema is developing into a cinema of neuroses, of psychic deformations. Images of sickness increasingly dominate the imaginations of our filmmakers. (The American Friend was only the beginning). The scenes have shifted from the open countryside to closed institutions.

These are just a few impressions after four days at the Hof film festival. Hof is a small border town which for four days in autumn, thanks to the efforts of the excellent Heinz Budewitz, becomes the cinematographic capital of the country.

The most important premieres of the autumn take place in Hof, and even successful producers and distributors value the three cinemas of the Central Theatre as a testing ground for their works, especially because of the mixed audiences: filmmakers, cinema-owners and critics sitting harmoniously beside the youth of Upper Franconia, who cannot easily be taken in. Films that go down well in Hof have good chances of doing well elsewhere.

I remember faces on and off the screen: that of Herbert Achternbusch, hidden behind a pair of sunglasses and a big black hat. Achternbusch acted as if Hof was at least as important as Hollywood (which is not completely wrong because Hollywood came to Hof, this year in the shape of Monte Hellmann, who showed all his work).

Anyway, Achternbusch hopped around on the stage, every inch a star and greeted guests at the preview of his new film *Der junge Mönch* (The Young Monk) with a self-assured "Hi, fans" which was premature to say the least, as there was only embarrassed silence when the film was over.

People in Hof are not yet prepared for the end of the world — the subject of Achternbusch's film — especially when the new god of the survivors (easily identifiable as a regular member of the Achternbusch troupe) is a chocolate Easter egg from the Tengelmann company.

The rest of our planet looks like Iceland and a suburb of Munich, and in this desolate area they worship a Tengelmann egg.

"It didn't used to be like this, did it?" Herbert asks and so they set about recreating a order that never existed. Postman Heinz becomes a cardinal and works for the Voluntary Suicide Control, of which fat old Karoline becomes a victim: she is loved to death.

In the Vatican, Herbert, Heinz and two male nuns play cards. On one occasion Herbert is a woman, on another he is a baby. Regression fantasies, wickered and directed than in Achternbusch's earlier films (which themselves were crazy enough), but sometimes confusingly solemn and stultic.

Anarchism is not a solemn matter and the film suffers from this. Fortunately Achternbusch does not bother too much about meanings, and points to the okapi

found in the Congo in 1906: people did not ask what they should do with the strange animal; they were simply delighted at its existence. This is one way of enjoying this Bavarian visit to the planet of the ape.

I remember the face of Klaus Kinski, which haunted the audience for only six silent minutes: drawn features, a head shaved bare, burning eyes expressing extreme concentration and exhaustion. This is how Werner Herzog's Woyzeck will look — like a concentration camp prisoner who has been drilled and tortured to madness. The excerpts from his film that Herzog showed his friends indicate that this is going to be an unusual film.

I remember the face of Bruno Ganz, distraught, nervous, feverishly in search of an identity which a bullet from a police gun snuffed out for a while. *Messer im Kopf* (Knife in the Head), the title of the new film by Reinhard Hauff, could almost be the leitmotiv for this year's Hof festival because there were so many knives in so many heads there, ciphers for the clinical confusion of the mind and the feelings, for the difficulties in standing the pressure of suffering. *Messer im Kopf* is a hospital film: less a political than a private drama.

I remember the narrow face of the young actress Susanne Granzer in Hans-Rüdiger Minow's first feature film *Die Anstalt* (The Institution). Her face is at first full of amazement, then of anger, and finally of fear.

She plays the part of a psychologist who has just left university and as an experiment has had herself transferred to a psychiatric clinic as a patient. Like Bruno Ganz in *Messer im Kopf*, she is soon confronted with a system which is

DIE ZEIT

more concerned with repairs than with real cures, in which patients are "tranquillised" with psycho-drugs and in which all fears are ascribed to psychic causes.

The psychologist finds out how easy it is to be put into an institution and how difficult to get out again. Her own father forces her back into madness.

Die Anstalt is a grey film, bald, unemotional and at times rather ponderously directed: a deliberate counter to the garish sensations which Sam Fuller once invented for his film on the same subject, *Shock Corridor*.

Despite this, the film becomes increasingly oppressive. Precisely the apparently dull indifference with which Minow registers this story of a loss of reality illustrates the everyday inhumanity of the way men treat men.

I remember the fixed, inscrutable face of a young girl called Brigitte Hoffmeister, who plays the main part in Gisela Stelly's first long film *Liebe und Abenteuer* (Love and Adventure).

Eighteen and blonde, Lara does not share the boutique dreams of the disco-teens. She wanders aimlessly around Hamburg, from one lousy job to the next. The careers adviser suggests a job in a book-binding department but Lara wants to experience adventures which no longer exist.

She works as a children's nanny, an office messenger-girl, a factory worker. Unmoved as a zombie she goes through a zombie world in which the male zombies abuse her and the female zombies complain about the impotence of their men.

Lara finds herself when she dances but only for moments; outside her refuge, a seedy bar, she only comes up against stony desolation. She is tamed to stone herself until she tries to break out in the tunnel of the underground.

Gisela Stelly's film, which has clearly been influenced by Jacques Rivette in many places, is not the usual social schmalz but an attempt to portray the heroine's dilemma by means of poetic stylisations. However for the moment this filmmaker's ambitions exceed her technical grasp: practically every take seems arbitrary in picture build-up and in length and could easily be replaced by any other. A narrative rhythm only emerges in places.

But *Love and Adventure*, neither of which occurs, is another one in the series of films about sickness. There is a short sequence in which Lara, working in a hospital, looks after a child who has just had an eye operation.

I remember a face which will still be in my mind when the other films at Hof have faded out of memory. It is not the face of an actor but of an agricultural labourer from the village of Darshoven in Upper Franconia who died in October 1977.

The man's name is Fritz Binner; even though one sometimes thinks that this is the face of Boris Karloff: it is a very unusual face, coarse rather than handsome, with big, protruding ears, a face full of amazement at the world, sometimes merely dull, then again curious and even cocky.

Like Karloff, Binner is a gentle giant, a man of curiously awkward movements and stiff gait. We see how strange he finds his own strength, how little this giant body seems to fit his gentle nature.

For almost two hours Fritz Binner dominates the screen in Josef Rödl's film *Albert* — *Warum* (Albert — Why?). The best film at Hof and at the same time the most impressive film debut in a year not noted for surprises. *Albert* — *Warum* is the degree film of Munich film student Rödl, who was born in Darshoven in 1949.

The inhabitants of the village play all the parts in the film. Fritz Binner is Albert, the village idiot, from whom the rest of the villagers keep away because he was in the "madhouse"; and because Rödl shows the spectacular humping scenes from the provinces but uses his black white camera to show how Albert increasingly withdraws from the village community, how inevitably, without any dramatics, he reaches the edges of this small community.

Albert, who finally hangs himself on a church bell-rope, is different from the others, and that is enough. Rödl shows how Albert tries to stop his contact with the villagers from breaking off completely and how he finally starts to defend himself when it is far too late.

Albert — Warum is a miracle in two respects: firstly, because Rödl produced this very precise and far from a material film with a small group of friends for a mere DM30,000, and secondly, because he achieves a quiet, poetic resilience comparable with that of Robert Bresson's films *Mouchette* and *Au Hasard Balthazar*. Never has the silence in Hof been so long and the applause following it so thunderous.

Hans C. Blumenberg
(Die Zeit, 3 November 1978)

Collection to boost films for children

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The main aim of the German Children's Film Fund formed in Frankfurt at the fourth Children's Film Festival is to collect DM20,000 for children's films.

The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 the Year of the Child and so the Bonn government is being asked to help. For the past 20 years the children's film has been dead in this country, ever since the Young People's Protection Act barred children under six from going to the cinema.

The government will not be allowed to rest with the Children and Young People's Film Centre, which is created last year, especially as this anaemic and under-financed organisation can do nothing to encourage production.

One of the founders of the initiative is Munich film director Harjo Senft, who did not stop at words but actually presented a contribution of his own. His film *Ein Tag mit dem Wind* (A Day with the Wind), only partly subsidised by short film grants from the German Film Council, was proof that Harjo Bohm now has a rival on the German children's film scene.

Ein Tag mit dem Wind is the story of a day in the life of a little boy who goes looking for a female rabbit for his mother. He wanders out into the countryside and the woods and has the strangest adventures. At the Italian International Festival of Children's and Young People's Films Senft's film won the Best Foreign Film Prize.

But one film does not mean the revival of the German children's film. Even at the Frankfurt festival half of the film came from the GDR (A Snowman for Africa, Philipp the Sparrow, Poland (Rolls), the Soviet Union (A Boy and an Elk), Yugoslavia (Luck on a lead) and even Bulgaria (A Problem with Many Unknown Quantities).

If anything can be said against children's films from the East, however, it is certainly not that they are politically coloured. The children's film has long been an area into which political filmmakers can withdraw.

The objection which could be made despite the high technical quality of the films, is that they are too solidly middle-class and conventional. We meet, for example, a beaming conformist child in the Polish film *Rolls* or strenuous efforts to depict an intact world in a German film consisting of half-timbered houses with bull's eye panes, as in the GDR film *Philipp the Sparrow*.

The English Children's Film Foundation is a very active producer of children's film. Festival will devote a lot of its space to its work. The organisers, the Communal Cinema in conjunction with the Children's and Young People's Film Centre, will thus have no difficulty in putting on a programme next year.

The only question is whether there will be new German children's film among them or whether the Frankfurt initiative will have drawn a blank.

Hilke Lange-Fuchs
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 November 1978)

ART

Courbet and Germany: an intense encounter

Bremer Nachrichten

The Courbet und Deutschland exhibition now being held at the Hamburg Kunsthalle, is the biggest and certainly the most important from a qualitative point of view held there in recent years.

The Kunsthalle has not for some time put on many exhibitions of works whose significance goes beyond this country.

This is not the biggest exhibition of Courbet's work. The recent exhibitions in Paris and London presented more. But the Hamburg exhibition is more comprehensive. It does not tackle the subject monographically but examines the work of Courbet from an aspect which is highly relevant at the moment: Courbet's relations to Germany and German painters.

The Paris and London exhibitions showed 132 paintings and only ten drawings. Hamburg presents 90 paintings and 25 drawings, on show for the first time. It also has 70 paintings by German painters whose works have affinities or connections with Courbet in a European context.

These two sections, which are far more comprehensive than those of the previous two exhibitions, are complemented by a third complex with a total of 212 exhibits. It is entitled *Discussion, Opposition and Alienation — Germans and French in Search of their Identity*, and gives an outline of the vast area within which moods, opinions and tendencies of the years between 1848 and 1871 were articulated. These years were crucial for Courbet and his German friends.

One should not ignore the current significance of this exhibition by concentrating too heavily on the historical aspect, the comparison of the realism of the French school of the Munich and South-West German schools. The intellectual, artistic and historical importance of the exhibition cannot be overestimated, which is why the exhibition is under the patronage of the Bundespräsident.

The main reason for a separate German exhibition after the various foreign exhibitions to mark the 100th anniversary of Courbet's death is to be sought in the Franco-German political situation over important periods of the 19th century.

The Hamburg exhibition attempts to form a far wider concept of Courbet's art than previous shows, trying to place it within a multiplicity of fields of meaning. In doing so, it sticks to the tradition which Werner Hofmann has developed in a number of previous exhibitions at the Kunsthalle. It ties in with questions posed in last year's *What is Art?* exhibition, and with earlier complexes related to the series of exhibitions on art around 1800.

Given the greater number of questions raised, it is hardly surprising that the Hamburg catalogue is twice as big as the French one.

The Paris and London catalogues both had 280 pages, the Hamburg catalogue has 640 pages.

Hofmann wants to take works of art

out of the realm of pure art and put them back in the political and social sphere within which they originated.

The visitor who is less interested in this aspect will still find plenty to delight him — a series of over a hundred masterpieces which will impress even those not too familiar with the historical background. The catalogue, which repudiates "culinary" aspects of art — one of the Hofmann's colleagues once said that he did not like art — is by no means exclusively concerned with the history of ideas and sociology.

Klaus Herding's fine essay called *Courbet und World Picture: Thesen zu Courbet's Painting* goes into details on how Courbet painted his pictures and is a good example of the wide intellectual range of the catalogue and of the exhibition.

As for colour, there is no denying that in Courbet's case it is almost always the mass of colour that predominates, as he is no colourist in the classical sense. If one looks at the series of his pictures in the Kuppelsaal, one notices that his colours generally range among the quieter tones of blue, green, red, brown and grey.

Among the German painters too the refraction of the colour is decisive. It must be said that this seems to be precisely the main characteristic of its own but develops its concept in the manifold refraction of various dimensions of reality.

The refraction of colour corresponds to the sceptical view of the world. The methodical concept is evident from the uniform technique of applying colours with the palette knife which tends to eliminate differences between the objects represented.

The resultant transcendence of the differences between the objects represented — in seascapes, for instance, the differences between sky, sea and beach — means that we can concentrate on what is happening in the picture. This is a purely aesthetic dimension. The individual aspect of social happenings is transcended in a whole which becomes a symbol in the work of art. The many pictures of waves testify to French painter's continuing interest in this problem.

To be certain of Courbet's decisive influence on his

German friends, all one needs to do is look at certain examples. Courbet's still life study of apples is behind the gentle tones of Karl Schuch's *The portrait attitude* is to be found again in the work of Viktor Müller, *The Lady on the Terrace* influenced Mares and other elements are to be found in the work of Leibl, the most important of the Germans. Never before has there been an encounter of such intensity between French and Germans.

Herbert Albrecht
(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 November 1978)



Courbet's *Girls in a Cornfield* (1855), on show in the Courbet and Germany exhibition at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

Main currents of realism in one exhibition

The Hamburg Kunstverein and the Hamburg Kunsthalle have jointly put on an ambitious double exhibition on modern realism to coincide with the Courbet und Deutschland exhibition at the Hamburg Kunsthalle.

The exhibition, which covers the whole panorama of modern international realism, was opened by Günter Gereken, chairman of the Kunstverein.

Presenting the works of 40 artists from Europe and America, the exhibition gives an interesting if not always representative overview of the main currents currently summarised under the concept of realism. In places the exhibition paraphrases the kind of realism on show at the Courbet exhibition.

The motto of the exhibition is: "As a good realist I have to invent everything!" This surprising but certainly tenable dictum was coined by the Canadian Alex Colville, one of the founders of new American realism, whose painting entitled *Watch Out for the Cows* — on loan from the Boymans van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam — is one of the highlights of the exhibition.



Canadian Alex Colville's painting *My Father and his Dog*, from the exhibition of modern realistic painters at the Hamburg Kunsthaus.

Colville's sentence is the precise opposite of Courbet's view. Courbet once said that the art of the realistic painter consisted in finding the most perfect means of expressing a thing, and not in inventing or creating the thing oneself.

In the view of Uwe M. Schneede, director of the Kunstverein and organiser of the exhibition, realism is not a style but a method. There are, as he rightly points out, various stylistic means of producing realistic work. The "critical element" and the "aesthetic quality" must both be considered.

"Even realistic paintings must be articulated convincingly," he says. The attempt to "take stock of currents trends" remained fragmentary and subjectively coloured in the selection. Pictures referred to be socially critical offering distorted or invented realities are over-represented.

On the other hand, the exhibition contains works which are riveting from the purely aesthetic viewpoint but are only marginally realistic and do not really belong here — for example, works by Gnoh and Hockney.

It is incomprehensible that only two Hamburg painters, Harald Duwe and Almut Hölse, are represented, although Hamburg has long been an important centre of realistic work and the Zebra and New Landscape groups have brought important new influences, which have been recognised abroad. When asked about this, Schneede said: "According to our view of realism, the Zebra people do not belong in this exhibition."

The exhibition, as the organisers explain, is divided into two parts. In the Kunstverein, we see mainly aggressive works, whereas in the Kunsthaus the works are more sensitive and reserved. In the main room of the Kunstverein there is an exhibition under the heading *Confrontations*. Here typical pop works by Warhol and Kitaj are on display alongside socio-critical group pictures by Duwe, Patrick and GDR artists Sieghard Gillo and Volker Stelzmann.

These artists mainly portray distorted realities in the style of the artists of the

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■ HEALTH

Alcoholism at work - the DM30 billion hangover

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Alcohol is the number one problem where workers operate dangerous machinery and accidents cost the state an estimated DM30 billion a year, the congress of the German anti-addiction society has been told.

The recent congress of Deutsche Hauptstelle gegen Suchtgefahren (DHS) dealt with the early diagnosis of addiction and treatment as a company task.

The Berlin meeting was attended by about 600 scientists, doctors, psychologists, social workers and representatives of companies and state authorities.

The following story was heard on the periphery of the meeting: Franz K, 42, once a skilled worker in a large North Rhine-Westphalian company, was a good worker although he liked to have a nip from time to time.

But few people noticed that he usually drank about six to eight bottles of beer a day, sneaking out the empties.

Like most people in danger of becoming alcoholics, Herr K was inconspicuous and his colleagues only knew that he was a friendly and ambitious fellow. But he started taking more and more sick leave and making mistakes at work. From there it was a downhill slide. He was transferred, threatened with dismissal and finally fired. Today, Herr K is an alcoholic wreck.

Although this might not be a typical story, Franz K is one of a very great number of people.

The realisation that liquor does not stop at the factory or office doors is not new but the problem has not been properly researched and there is a tendency to sweep it under the carpet.

Drinking on the job is considered perfectly normal by many. But there is another reason for the reluctance to raise this subject. The social worker of a major company told the meeting: "If we were to speak of an alcohol problem in our company people would instantly say that this must be due to inhuman working conditions."

At an annual meeting shareholders were horrified when the management suggested the establishment of a treatment centre for alcoholism on company premises.

DHS experts substantiated their claim that reluctance to face alcoholism is out of place by the following poignant facts:

- The quota of work accidents due to liquor is between five and 30 per cent. There are no reliable figures because no-one can be forced to take an alcohol test after an accident although accident prevention regulations stipulate a ban on liquor. Fellow workers usually keep quiet, and many doctors make a note of alcohol consumption in the case history only once it is so obvious that it can no longer be overlooked. On the other hand, experts say, alcohol is frequently blamed where the cause of accident is faulty machinery or inadequate protective devices.

- Alcohol is the number one problem - even if consumed in small quantities - for safety at work. Increasing

mechanisation in production plants and offices aggravates the problem.

- The cost of accidents caused by alcohol to the social security system and in terms of workmen's compensation insurance is estimated at DM30 billion per year.

- Business losses due to absenteeism resulting from alcohol and shoddy workmanship cannot even be estimated. According to same surveys, absenteeism alcoholics is five times as high as among others. The number of drinkers in West Germany requiring treatment is growing steadily, now estimated at more than 1.5 million.

- Alcohol consumption is prevalent in all branches of business. Blue collar workers and top executives are equally prone.

The complex question of why some people drink regularly, and hence also at work, was not discussed in Berlin - not even when the audience asked whether performance stress was a major factor in drinking.

The discussion centred primarily on defensive measures, such as alcohol bans.

In some companies (50 per cent in North Rhine-Westphalia) bans are in effect, while others bar liquor only from the "dangerous departments." This induced Berlin's Senator for Social Affairs, Olaf Sund, to remark: "What, liquor, to serve liquor in the cafeteria while imposing abstinence in the room next door?"

Many managements feel that a ban cannot be enforced ("liquor is brought to the premises from outside," they say) and this is in keeping with the reluctance of many works council members to agree to such a ban, since they all want to be re-elected.

One participant in the discussion put it bluntly: "While upstairs they view the effects of alcohol with concern, the

drink-vending machines down in the basement do a brisk business."

It is a fact that an alcohol ban will not stop the addict from getting his drink. But the addict, the patient, is only the tip of the iceberg. At the base, one doctor said, there was the mass of those categorised somewhere between drinkers, alcohol abusers or addicts.

For these endangered people, who frequently go undetected for many years, a strict ban on alcohol at work is at least a help in resisting temptation.

But to achieve this we would need exemplary superiors who would reduce the endless number of office parties marking birthdays and anniversaries and provide non-alcoholic beverages free of cost for certain types of jobs. It would also be necessary to show more consideration for fellow workers who would like to turn down a drink but are afraid of ridicule.

Little constructive was said on early diagnosis. After all, the participants were told, a company cannot very well put a sign at the factory gates asking staff to undergo a prophylactic examination.

To overcome the apprehension threshold among the endangered who might be prepared to talk it out, alcoholism checks could be included in other prophylactic examinations (heart, circulation).

Assistance for alcoholics can probably only be realised in major companies.

Dr Siegfried Sparrer, works doctor of Bayer, Leverkusen, said former alcoholics could help others to overcome the problem. The success quota with this method was better than 50 per cent.

BASF, Ludwigshafen, has had similar experiences. Of its 50,000 staff, managers, 375 have so far taken the help provided by the Work Group for Potential Alcoholics formed by various departments.

The congress came up with some shocking figures, numerous proposals and plenty of helplessness. Assessing the chances in the struggle against liquor realistically, one participant said: "If we manage to rally a bit more public support for a start well shall be satisfied."

Hans-Uwe Haertel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 October 1978)

Drug side-effects scare public - naturopaths

Kölnische Stadt-Anzeiger

Every fifth patient shows disease symptoms caused by diagnostic and therapeutic measures, according to naturopaths meeting in Munich for their 22nd congress.

The 500 German naturopaths gathered to discuss an almost philosophical topic: "Illness as Destiny."

An information campaign over several years in medical publications for laymen seems to have created a deep-rooted mistrust of the pharmaceutical industry. The congress was told, this had led to a "positive shift in the attitude towards naturopathy."

According to polls by the Allensbach Institute, one in four adults is concerned about the dangers of medication due to side effects, which are considered grave. These side effects are seen as consid-

erable by 38 per cent; 71 per cent agreed that every medical student should receive thorough training in the use of natural remedies.

This attitude by a large segment of the public, the naturopaths say, reflects increasing fear of illness and of doctors.

Fewer and fewer people consider illness a "correction of wrong bodily development" and thus a healthy reaction.

The human being must revert to the attitude that if something hurts he must correct his way of life. If this is done, a minor ailment can have a positive effect on health.

False views, participants at the congress were told, had led to panic reactions in connection with bagel-like diseases in the past few years.

This, they said, frequently resulted in therapy damage due to dangerous diagnostic methods - damage far worse than the actual disease.

Karl Stankewitz

(Kölnische Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 November 1978)

Congress call to help the autistic

Frankfurter Rundschau

The Federal Republic of Germany ranks at the very bottom of West European countries over child care, the congress of the Help for the Autistic Child Association has been told by its president, Helen Blohm.

The meeting drew 600 doctors, psychologists, educationalists and parents from several West European countries.

In England 2,000 autistic children received therapeutic care, while of Germany's 6,000 autistic children a mere 30 were cared for in institutions, Frau Blohm said.

California even had a school law governing autistic children.

According to Frau Blohm, close to 90 per cent of autistic children in West Germany are treated either wrongly or not at all because doctors and parents are still uninformed on autism.

Autism is an extreme self-preoccupation, usually accompanied by withdrawal from reality, absorption in fantasy life and inability to relate to other people.

Autistic children can see, hear, touch, smell and taste but don't know what to do with the sensations.

This is where autism differs from other mental handicaps or behavioural disorders.

The prime handicap is inability to make proper use of perceptions. The children are frequently incapable of understanding and using language.

Autistic children, who can have a wide range of IQs, almost never play and find it very difficult to deal with others the same age, with parents and adults in general.

Sometimes, they have a mania for a specific order of things in their rooms or drive their parents to desperation with their obsession with collecting things.

Some autistics are in danger of inflicting serious injuries on themselves. They are sometimes so worked up as to be unable to sleep for nights on end. At other times they are totally apathetic.

Although relatively little is known about autism apart from the fact that the central portion of the brain does not fully function, it is still possible to educate a large proportion of these children and to make them adapt mentally and socially through systematic therapy and schooling.

The parents' Help for the Autistic Child Association, founded in 1971, has made an intensive effort in the past few years to enlighten parents, doctors, teachers and the national health authorities about the problem.

The self-help organisation, encompassing about 600 parents, is promoting the establishment of diagnostic and therapy centres, information on autism for parents, teachers and therapists and research work on the disorder.

The organisation's most important demand is directed at the educational ministries, calling for help for autistic children through schools and institutions.

Laszlo Tranter

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 November 1978)

■ CULTURE

Essaying the full span of Lorenz's thought

Deutsche Zeitung

To coincide with the author's 75th birthday on 7 November Piper Verlag at Munich is publishing a collection of essays by behavioural researcher and cultural anthropologist Konrad Lorenz.

Entitled *Das Wirkungsgefüge der Natur und das Schicksal des Menschen* (The Domain of Nature and the Fate of Man), the book is edited by Irénus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, a former Lorenz student and assistant. The essays are taken from different periods in his long scientific career.

Is it not perhaps futile to ask about the spirit of our time? We can rightly talk about the spirit of the Renaissance or of Romanticism because most of the documents handed down to us from these periods have common features.

But if we look for similar common features in the intellectual and cultural life of the 20th century, all we find are irreconcilable opposites: along with the triumph of the sciences, we find the enormous power of unscientific thought in various political ideologies. We find the magnificent achievements of modern technology on the one hand, and its almost unlimited destructive power on the other; the heights of civilisation and threat to our very existence.

In Lorenz's work the irreconcilable nature of intellectual and cultural forces in this century turn out to be no more than a superficial phenomenon. Beneath the surface the cultural, socio-political and civilising process of the 20th century obeys a system of laws which Lorenz has helped to reveal in his scientific work.

Lorenz, co-founder of the new science of "comparative behavioural research" has written important theoretical works on epistemology which puts him in the direct tradition of Kant. As a cultural anthropologist he has analysed the most important conditions of human existence, particularly in industrial civilisation. He has put his finger on the nerve of our times.

Konrad Lorenz was born in Vienna in 1903, studied medicine and zoology and then devoted himself entirely to research on animal behaviour.

At the beginning of the 30s he published a series of studies on instinctive behaviour among birds, now considered the basis for comparative behavioural research or ethology. In 1941 he was appointed to the professorship once held by Immanuel Kant at the university of Königsberg.

After the war he spent most of his time working for the Max Planck Society and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 1973 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine along with Niko Tinbergen and Karl von Frisch.

Since the laws of heredity were discovered by Augustinian monk Gregor Mendel and Charles Darwin expounded his theory of evolution in the 19th century, natural scientists held the view that the multiplicity of plant, animal and human organisms was 'formed' from a few giant organic molecules over millions of years. These molecules were the basic components of all forms of life.

The decisive capacities of an organism are those of withdrawing energy from the environment to stabilise itself (metabolism), the ability to reproduce, and the storage of information about the nature of the environment in the cells capable of reproduction. This latter process is known as adaptation.

Inheritance from one or more individuals from generation to generation does not usually remain constant but keeps on changing. In small steps according to the statistical laws of physics and microbiology (mutation).

The following generations have slightly different qualities so that as a rule only those individuals best adapted to their environment survive and reproduce. The fittest survive and the weak go under in the process of selection.

In principle these are the positions expounded in Darwin's theory of evolution. The epoch-making discovery of ethology was to show that the developmental laws of mutation, selection and adaptation applied not only to the physical and morphological appearance of living creatures, but also to their behaviour.

By behaviour we understand the relation of the individuals with their environment, for example to ensure that they have enough to eat (hunting for food, hunting), division of labour within the group (family, tribe, herd) or even man's interference with nature.

This collection of essays contains a number of Lorenz's earlier essays in which the principles of behavioural research are first applied to tribal development among human beings. This is the area in which Lorenz has throughout his life been most controversial. His opponents hold that the historical development of forms of human life cannot be explained in the scientific terms of the theory of evolution. They argue that human behaviour is a product of education, social circumstances, and the traditions to which the individual is exposed.

In reply, ethologists were able to show by comparisons of human and animal behaviour that the social and cultural change of forms of human life are based on certain patterns of individual behaviour, social communication and the division of labour, which are all already present to a lesser degree among the

more highly developed genera and species of animals (language, learning behaviour, the formation of traditions, the use of technology).

There is no longer any doubt about their developmental origin and their biological existential value, or, to use ethological terms, their "species-preserving" function. For Lorenz, cultural history is the continuation of evolution by other means.

These insights have had a revolutionary effect on modern anthropology and sociology but their main influence on the 20th century scientific world picture has been in a quite different area - that of epistemology. In his essay on Kant's *Lehre des Apriorischen im Lichte gegenwärtiger Biologie* (Kant's Teaching of the Apriori in the Light of Modern Biology), Lorenz wrote a new chapter in the analytic-philosophical teaching of animal and human forms of attaining knowledge.

Ever since Kant, philosophy realised more or less clearly that there is not and cannot be any form of experience and knowledge, however precise it may be, which is not based on one form or another pre-scientific hypotheses. This is what Kant meant by a priori knowledge, knowledge which is not based on our experience but precedes and is the condition of our experience.

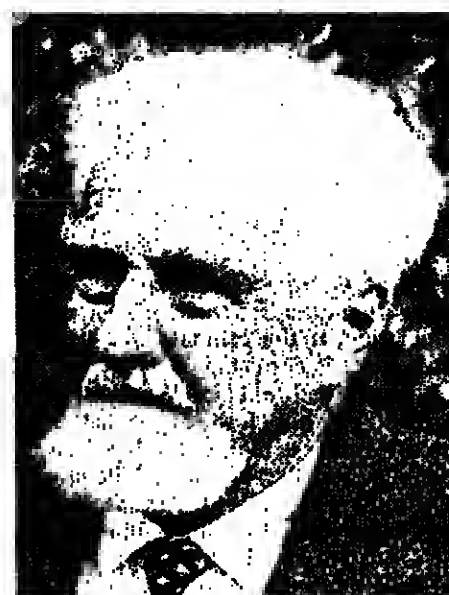
Philosophy and theology concluded that God existed because he had given human beings this metaphysical means of knowledge before all other living beings.

Lorenz now argued that our capacity for intelligent behaviour and scientific rational research, that is, the metaphysical bases of the exact sciences, represent tribal acquisitions of the human race. The human mind is the product of tribal selection and adaptation.

Linguistic structure and conceptual thinking, our sense of space, our sense of time and of causal connections are all the products of biological evolution codified as "advance" information on the structure of our environment in the course of history, by the interplay of mutation and selection in the hereditary mass of higher species and finally of the human race.

Modern psychology has since confirmed these hypotheses in many respects. For example, certain stereotyped forms of movement have been observed in babies shortly after birth. These represent inherited innate forms of the perception of space and are not based on individual experience. A newborn child could not possibly have acquired these movements so soon after birth.

The famous 'a priori' categories of



Konrad Lorenz: looking beneath the surface of intellect and culture.

(Photo: Archiv)

space and time which, according to Kant, form the basis of our thinking and our experience obviously reflect a successful adaptation of our perceptive and cognitive faculties to our environment.

More recently, Konrad Lorenz has again proved himself to be a pioneer of new ideas. About ten years ago he published a small book of cultural criticism entitled *Die acht Todsünden der zivilisierten Menschheit* (The Eight Deadly Sins of Civilised Humanity) which led to a discussion on a wide front on the problem of the protection of the environment and the crisis of modern civilisation.

The present collection contains a number of writings on this subject, ending in a brilliant chapter entitled *Zivilisationspathologie und Kulturfreiheit* (The Pathology of Civilisation and Cultural Freedom).

Lorenz begins by outlining the main ethological insights on the role of decadence and degeneration within the evolutionary process. The history of development does not always lead to a higher development, to a better adaptation of the species to its environment.

At least as often the mutation of hereditary characteristics brings a regressive evolution of the individuals and tribal lines affected. Hereditary diseases, parasitic forms of life, abnormal eating and sexual habits, and, in the worst cases, the death of the species are the results.

In today's highly technological world the biological category of the adaptation of human behaviour to environmental conditions is not the only decisive factor. According to Lorenz, highly differentiated cultures can remain healthy where the biologically founded and often contradictory behavioural stimuli are ritualised and channelled through institutions and traditions.

As the creations of culture are of high biological value for human beings, their decay can have catastrophic effects.

The decay of social institutions such as the family and traditions, the tendencies towards specialisation and one-sided technomorphous thinking in modern society have destroyed the finely balanced interplay of the various aspects of our culture.

The same applies to the relation of nature to man's cultural sphere. The decay of cultivated forms of life among human beings leads to forms of decadence similar to those which can be seen in the decay of the hereditary characteristics of a genus.

The parallels between vulgarisation

Continued on page 14

Main currents of realism

Continued from page 11

twentieth: There are no longer any realities, at least in the Federal Republic of Germany, to correspond to these images.

The next rooms, in which the Berlin artists Patrick and Vogelsang are heavily represented, offer more caricature than realism. The works of the six GDR painters, who often use metaphor to reveal their reality, are of particular interest.

The second main room has a rivalling contrast of three sculptures: Alfred Hrdlicka's marble sculpture *The Terrible End of Paolo Pasolini*, Donatone Hmsen's panapleum-like *Abandoned Woman* and Siegfried Nettenhausen's agitational *Monument for Mahatma* for João Borges de Souza.

Next to this remote Guttuso's *Lot's Daughters* is an example of vital, expressive realism. Its two sleepers are a paraphrase of an erotic motif by Courbet.

In the Kunsthau, the American realists John Salt and Alex Colville are prominent, and the works of Gulluso, Hockney and Gnoli as well as those of the Spanish realists Francisco Lopez and Isabel Quintanilla impress.

Other names worthy of note are Gerhard Richter with his blurred photographs, Ben Schoneit with his pop-style sugar compositions and Richard Hamilton with his alienated bathers.

Berlin artist Matthias Koeppel has done an amusing pastiche of Courbet's famous painting *Bonjour, Monsieur Courbet*, which sadly is not on show at the Hamburg exhibition.

Hans Theodor Flemming
(Die Welt, 4 November 1978)

TEACHING

West Berlin volunteers join fight against illiteracy

West Berlin may have up to 20,000 illiterates, about one percent of the population, if the estimate of a literacy work group is correct.

Illiteracy in the Third World is taken for granted, but few know that even countries with a highly developed social and educational system have illiterates.

According to recent American estimates, there are 23 million illiterates in the United States. In Britain their number is estimated at two million, and in Holland at 500,000. There are no official estimates for the Federal Republic of Germany.

The West Berlin estimate comes from a group of young educationalists, psychologists, teachers and university students trying to help illiterates.

Educationalist Horst Müller met his first illiterate in 1974 and taught him to read and write. The social welfare and labour office learned of his success and kept his address on file.

Horst Müller soon realised that there were many similar cases in Berlin and offered a reading and writing course at a *Volkschule*, initially for seven students.

He was soon joined by others willing to promote literacy, among them Marie-Louise, a university student.

Looking back on her work, she says: "The initial difficulty lay in the fact that everybody provided individual tuition. There was no coordination nor reliable financial backing by the authorities. To get this, it was necessary to lend the project an official character. We therefore established an association called Work Group for Orientation and Educational Assistance, registered in 1977."

An information sheet, issued by the group says: "Our objective is to provide young people and adults who failed to achieve literacy during compulsory schooling with instruction in reading and writing."

"Moreover, the special psychological and social situation of those concerned, usually marked by isolation, requires therapeutic measures as part of actual tuition."

Lorenz essays

Continued from page 13

and the rapid consumption of the affluent citizen is just one of the examples which Lorenz has up his sleeve.

"Even if humanity does not die from the sickness of its own culture, even if it escapes the threat of annihilation by its self-created technology, there is still the constant danger of degeneration, of a falling off of evolution."

"This evolutionary regression can lead to the destruction of the life system, but must not necessarily do so. The thought of the complete destruction of humanity — which given the cultural diseases affecting us now is conceivable — is hardly more terrifying than that of humanity maintaining its capacity for life but slowly degenerating in its evolution and losing its specifically human qualities," Lorenz writes at the end of the book. This is certainly a gloomy vision of the future.

Gebhard Geiger

(Deutsche Zeitung, 3 November 1978)

Frankfurter Handschmied

Although registered as an association, the group was still without a meeting place and a classroom. It was not until May 1977 that the team, which had meanwhile increased to ten, succeeded in renting a shop in Berlin's Kreuzberg district which, though not ideal, provided premises.

What sort of people are the illiterates who use this service? Is illiteracy tantamount to mental slowness?

Nat al nil. "Motivation to learn to read and write in adulthood is usually due to increasingly insupportable social and psychological suffering," says the information sheet.

Dieter, 34, a married blue collar worker is a typical case. Until recently he could neither read nor write because he grew up in the country and his parents were indifferent to his performance at school.

After dropping out of a special school, he earned a living as a day labourer where no-one cared about his education. Now he faces enormous difficulties in his public service job — primarily because he has to cover up for his illiteracy.

To mark their 25th anniversary, *Landesverbände* of the Rhineland and Westphalia-Lippe have launched a campaign to publicise their 33 special schools.

One of them is the St. Augustine School for the Physically Handicapped. Klaus is 12, and yet his life only began three years ago. Until then he was virtually a vegetable.

His parents could not face the fact that one of their four children was blind, deaf, paralysed and mentally handicapped. Perhaps they did their best, but this wasn't enough.

At St. Augustine's, the specialised teachers use endless patience to teach him the most elementary bodily functions. They taught him to swallow, chew, drink and taste.

Until he was eight, the boy was fed only liquids — through an enema. This was the most comfortable way of feeding him since he had no control over his facial muscles and could not chew.

He also had to learn to receive love and tenderness. Initially he permitted no-one to touch him and screamed when approached.

Today he seeks bodily contact and "strokes" the hand that touches him — although by hitting it because he is unable to control the movement of his arm. But at least he shows a certain sensitivity.

Klaus is one of the 6,350 children looked after by the two associations.

Dr. Erna Erdmann, principal of the St. Augustine School, says it is due to the wide educational concept of special schools that such severe cases, that is children with sensory disorders, are accepted in school rather than put into institutions.

cy by saying: "I can't find my glasses and without them I can't read."

Life for Dieter became hell due to inferiority complexes and fear. When he heard about the Kreuzberg shop he responded immediately and now attends classes regularly.

He is making good progress and has gained some self-confidence, says Irina, his teacher.

The group is now giving 23 illiterates two two-hour lessons per week. But there are 72 applicants with whom the group maintains contact, and the waiting list is long.

The group has meanwhile gained state recognition and is receiving funds for teaching fees and rent under social welfare legislation.

There is, however, one class of five youngsters who cannot attend classes and the teachers go to them: they are inmates of Berlin's Plötzensee juvenile correctional institution.

Says one of the association members: "Many illiterates are unable to cope with day-to-day problems and this leads to resignation and social isolation resulting in depressions, suicide attempts, alcoholism and crime."

Young people are increasingly coming to hear of the educational service. Many are dropouts, and this means that they have little chance of a job. Their illiteracy is frequently due to severe illness in

childhood, to having been relegated to a special school, or to undetected dyslexia.

Says Irina: "We obviously try to induce the young people to go back to school and complete their education once they have learned to read and write."

Most of the other pupils are unstable workers between 20 and 30, mostly men because it is primarily they who have jobs and thus the most difficulties. Housewives are generally better equipped to cope with illiteracy.

The teaching aims at better sound articulation and acoustic differentiation between the various sounds of the language, a prerequisite for further tuition in reading and writing.

The method stresses the systematic structure of the language, using the given morpheme system.

Says Marie-Louise: "Part of our teaching efforts is always to make the pupil cope with his psychological and social problems by making him recognise the difficulties facing him and take steps to counter them. This makes him aware of his abilities and helps overcome resignation."

Experience shows that the treatment of illiteracy takes about one-and-a-half years of four hours tuition a week.

The association provides its own teaching material, designed to suit the individual. But all this costs money, and the group would like to receive more funds with less red tape.

Other German cities have become aware of the Berlin initiative and are about to follow suit. After all, illiteracy is not restricted to Berlin.

Monika Herrmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 November 1978)

Schools that help the helpless

"Today," she says, "the term 'incurable' no longer exists. In schools for the handicapped it is also part of the curriculum to teach children to cope with everyday life — dressing, themselves, washing and learning to control their bodily functions."

But according to Joachim Cornelius, in charge of social welfare and special schools within the *Landesverbände* Rheinland, this idea is still controversial among school principals, who argue that they are overqualified for nursery tasks and therefore refuse to admit severe cases.

The St. Augustine School, on the other hand, is prepared to start education at the beginning. Rhythmic exercises and movement coordination are important elements, because thought processes are shared in by movement. If movement is restricted, so is the mind development. The word "to grasp" thus has two meanings.

The establishment and maintenance of special schools — a vocational school for the deaf, the first in this country, is about to be opened in Essen — is only a small part of the work of the two associations.

They have developed from midges into giants in the past 25 years, budgets growing from DM650 million to DM10 billion.

But the reason for existence of these monster public institutions is still con-

roversial. Opponents hold that their tasks could be divided between the state and the municipalities, thus cutting down red tape, staff and, ultimately, expenses.

But both the president of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Assembly, Wilhelm Lenz, CDU, and Prime Minister Johannes Rau, SPD, said in their congratulatory messages that the right to self-administration of these public institutions should not be curtailed by coming reforms in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The precursor of the *Landesverbände* Rheinland was the Rhineland Provincial Assembly, established after Prussian occupation in 1826.

This body passed on municipal problems such as "the disastrous consumption of liquor, the many feuds and rural dances and wanton marriage" to the provincial administrations in 1876 in order to devote itself entirely to political issues.

The two associations consider themselves the successors of the provincial administration, dissolved in 1933.

They have taken on some of the tasks that would overtax municipalities, and which are beyond the realm of the Land government.

These tasks, handled by 300 offices now include social welfare, care for the handicapped, national health, youth care, roads, culture, and landscape preservation.

The range of activities is unlikely to narrow in the years ahead — nor is the deficit, estimated at DM110 million for both associations in 1978.

Ute Kaltwasser

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 October 1978)

SPORT

Kolbe makes a golden comeback

Hamburg oarsman Peter Michael Kolbe made a comeback to regain the single sculls gold medal at the world rowing championships on Lake Karapiro, New Zealand.

His comeback may also prove to have been his final fling. Having shown the world that he was not a flash in the pan, he is thinking of giving up.

Two years ago at Montreal he was highly fancied to win an Olympic gold medal, so much so that a silver came as a disappointment. He was narrowly beaten by Pertti Karppinen of Finland.

Explanations were demanded for Kolbe's seemingly unaccountable failure to hold on to the lead, but those offered made little sense.

He blamed the team doctor for giving him a pre-race injection which he said caused a kind of blackout just before the finish of the 2,000 metres.

Rowing officials reckoned he had made a tactical mess of the final. The sporting public was dissatisfied.

Kolbe too was upset, returning to Hamburg to sulk until the thought struck him that a final world championship success would put the record straight.

In New Zealand he regained supremacy. No-one came near challenging him — Montreal gold medalist Karppinen came sixth.

Victory in the single sculls was not the only highlight of the championships for West Germany. The results on Lake Karapiro amounted to a comeback for the entire team.

It vindicated the team management's tactical approach that the longer a crew rowed together, the better they become. The team arrived in New Zealand a month ahead of the championships.

The tally was a gold in the single sculls, a silver in the eights and coxed fours and bronze for the double fours, with a bonus of a silver in the double fours for the women.

Hands-down medal winners were the East Germans, with five gold and two silver.

Had it not been for grants of one kind and another, the team would not have been able to fly to New Zealand for a month's on-the-spot training.

But there can be no doubt that sports promotion is much more thorough and enjoys greater prestige and government backing in the GDR than in the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Top-flight athletes," Karl Adam, the late and lamented Ratzeburg rowing coach, once said, "cannot be seconded for sports duties in this country as they can in the GDR. It is just as well we have individualists like Kolbe."

Peter Michael Kolbe was undoubtedly a stroke of good luck for the Rowing Association. Officials were able to claim his gold medal in New Zealand as proof of the success of their coaching courses.

Kolbe, who has been at loggerheads with rowing officials for so long, also showed that an individualist with sufficient talent can outperform even the most smoothly-running bureaucratic machine.

Gerhard Seehase

(Die Zeit, 10 November 1978)



Peter Michael Kolbe sculling his way to a gold medal at the world rowing championships on Lake Karapiro in New Zealand. Kolbe was narrowly beaten in the single sculls at the Montreal Olympics. (Photo: Hans Müller)

Heavyweight Hussing set for his tenth crown

Robert Hussing, 30, has three times been on the point of retiring, yet he is well on his way to becoming the most successful German amateur boxer ever. He should still be in the running for Moscow.

Hussing was one of eight 1977 national champions at the West German regional championships in Cologne to qualify for the national championships in Schriesheim, near Heidelberg, from 23 to 25 November.

On form he cannot fail to win his tenth championship title, a national record. Horst Rascher from Ulm won nine national titles and Herbert Runge from Wuppertal had eight titles.

Managers and promoters have long been trying to tempt heavyweight Hussing to turn pro, but he is not interested. He takes a realistic view of the reputation of professional boxing, and his wife and three children also say no.

Yet Hussing reckons amateur boxing set him back several semesters as an architecture student. "It has certainly been a handicap professionally."

On balance, however, loyalty to the amateur code has been worthwhile. He

is a crowd-puller and a widely-travelled athlete, which is hardly surprising considering his record of 211 wins and one draw in 235 bouts.

He is also an Olympic bronze medalist and twice reached the European championship finals. He has the technique; all he lacks is a decisive extra ounce of explosive power.

Training could have made the difference, but there are not enough opponents and sparring partners in West Germany to coax the best out of him. He looms above the opposition in boxing skill and has to make do with the punchbags as an opponent.

Hussing last planned to retire at the Belgrade world championships six months ago. He was annoyed by a controversial points defeat at the hands of Jürgen Faghtl of the GDR.

But once his initial anger had settled, he was persuaded by Heinz Birkle of the Amateur Boxing Association to keep going.

Since next year's European championships are in Cologne, he now feels he will stand a fair chance at last, boxing on home ground.

Boxing officials are hoping success will come his way. As reigning European champion he could surely be persuaded not to retire until after the Moscow Olympics.

Jupp Müller

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 November 1978)

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Sensational chess win for Germans

West German chess players won a sensational 2.5-1.5-point victory over the Soviet Union in the ninth round of the Chess Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The West German team was, on aggregate, only half a point behind the Soviet Union, without world champion Karpov.

Robert Hübner from Cologne drew with former world champion Boris Spassky and is unbeaten so far at Buenos Aires. Unzicker (Munich) and Hecht (Solingen) drew with Petrosian and Vaganian, while Pfeiffer (Bamberg) beat Poguyevski.

West Germany is fast emerging as the all-powerful Soviet team's bugbear. Two years ago at the world team championships in Israel its team beat the Russians and some reckon the Germans stand a chance of winning the world championship title. After initial setbacks the team has steadily improved at Buenos Aires.

Before outpointing the Soviet Union, the West German team made a 4-0 clean sweep of Wales and beat their hosts, Argentina, 3-1.

Much will now depend on their showing against Hungary, the United States, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. All are tough opponents.

The organising committee of the Chess Olympics is back at full strength, chairman Rudolfo Zaulungo having escaped from his abductors.

He disappeared on 18 October, a week before the championships began. Tired but uninjured, he reported to a police station north-west of Buenos Aires on 5 November.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 6 November 1978)

Judokas put up a good throwing

At the West German open judo championships in Paderborn, Westphalia, the hosts won three of the seven men's titles, the same tally as in Bochum last year.

They were Peter Jupke from Abendsberg, below 60kg, Adalbert Missalla from Rüsselsheim, up to 78kg, and Wolfgang Frank from Grödelborn, up to 86kg.

It was the 17th open championships and the 400 competitors came from 11 countries.

Wolfgang Frank, 23, was particularly impressive. He came third at the European championships in Helsinki and beat Alexander Pushnitsa of the Soviet Union in the final.

He was unbeaten at the Paderborn championships as he had been at the European team championships in Paris.

Franz Fisoher from Munich, Wolfgang Völperhorst from Wolfsburg, Fred Marhenke from Wolfsburg and Karl Belfuss from West Berlin came second.

The Soviet Union won three titles, Hungary one, but 600 spectators saw for themselves a trend set in Paris: the men are slowly improving.

The French were a disappointment, sending second- or third-rate competitors. Their team including author European champion, Angelo Parisi nor any other leading French judokas.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 November 1978)